


Disability Now

'EASIREACH'
with NEW
STRONG
NYLON
JAW
M6A and built in
serrated gripper


10% OFF LIST PRICES

Send for new
Mail Order
Catalogue

Homecraft
OF LONDON SW17 7TF
AQ9




Closer?
page 2




IYY: Sound,
pages 8-9

Vision,
Action

PEACE WAR



Our man
at BR
page 5



Key to
independence
page 12

54 proposals in arts report

The Arts Council and regional arts associations should, within a year, give money only to enterprises that take "adequate steps to serve the needs of disabled people in their employment policies, in their access facilities, in their educational programmes and in their publicity."

This is one of 54 proposals put forward by the Attenborough Report, *Arts and Disabled People*, published last month.

The proposals are also aimed at government ministers, local authorities, the MSC, the BBC and IBA, arts and disability organisations, employers and trade unions. The emphasis is practical: a review of the arrangements for licensing public buildings; regulations to make arts buildings accessible; policy statements which commit organisations to widen opportunities for disabled people in the arts.

The Committee of Inquiry (15 people, 3 of them disabled) was chaired by Sir Richard Attenborough. It was set up by the Carnegie UK Trust in 1982 to find out how far existing facilities allowed people with disabilities to involve themselves in the arts — as artists or audience — and to recommend developments and improvements.

"Arts" was defined broadly to include libraries and museums and both professional and amateur arts. "Disabled" covered physical or mental disability and all ages.

16 consultative meetings were held around the country and various studies commissioned. For example, a survey of 30 major arts venues in Edinburgh in 1983/4 found that only 6 were accessible and a survey of arts publicity material in 5 towns concluded that "very little of use to disabled people is contained in arts information."

Arts for Everyone, a practical guide on how people working in the arts can improve their facilities and services, was also published last month with a preface by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Simon Crompton



London's new Half-Moon Theatre opened last month. It's fully accessible — as Judy Fairclough discovered.

The Committee comes out in favour of working to improve opportunities through existing organisations rather than creating a national "umbrella" organisation. It wants arts and disability organisations to make "particular efforts" to educate their members, staff and the public in "more constructive attitudes."

Yet it deliberately avoids using the word "discrimination."

"Even if you don't like the word, what else can you call it when one section of the public is effectively barred from places others want to go to?" asked Anita Maunsell, head of The Spastics Society's information and publicity.

While she was impressed with the breadth and seriousness of the report, and the responsibility it put on the Arts Council, she wondered, like others, whether so many proposals could be followed up.

"Without 'teeth' you can't make things move," she said. "Attitudes have to change, and the people who must shake the government and the Arts Council are disabled people."

The Arts Council is considering developing a policy on arts and disability later this year. Meanwhile, it will "urge" its subsidised clients to adopt a code of good practice next month.

Arts and Disabled People (Bedford Square Press/NCVO). £4.95 from bookshops.

Paper "welcomed"

The Spastics Society launched its Occasional Paper *Discrimination and Disabled People* in the House of Commons on 9 May. It was welcomed by Tony Newton, Minister for the Disabled, as a "constructive contribution to discussion".

Speaking in the Commons the day before the launch, he said the Government had no plans to introduce anti-discrimination legislation as The Spastics Society recommends. The paper recognised some of the problems of framing such a law, he added.

The paper describes 46 cases of discrimination against disabled people, collected by Voluntary Organisations Against Discrimination (VOAD). It examines what kinds of discrimination are unjustified and should be banned by law, and distinguishes three main categories — direct, indirect and positive discrimination.

Michael Meadowcroft (Liberal) was one of 5 MPs who came to the launch.

He said: "Fighting for disabled people's rights has won the emotional debate, but it hasn't won the intellectual debate. It is now how you implement the feeling which is the important question."



Nigel Tuckett

The Duke of Westminster, patron of International Youth Year in England and president of The Spastics Society, meets Lee Osborne of Beaumont College during the creative workshops. (Pages 8-9).

Luck of the draw makes history

"It's not the quality of your case but the quality of your luck that decides whether you legislate," said Alf Morris, MP, wryly.

He was remembering the birth of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act which became law 15 years ago last month.

Not only did he win the ballot for private members' bills in November 1969 but the Bill scraped through as the last piece of legislation before the 1970 Election.

For disabled people, The Act was a landmark: the first time they had a statutory right to be provided with whatever help they needed to cope with their disability — house adaptations, telephones, home helps, holidays, physical aids, travel facilities (the orange badge was a direct result).

It introduced such new legislation as access for disabled people to public buildings and the right to sit on local and national advisory committees.

Implementing the Act has always been a problem, with some local authorities being much more effective than others.

But today, with government

cuts on local authority spending and rate control, all authorities may have to choose between breaking the law, either Alf Morris' Act or the Rates Act.

"Ultimately it is for central government to provide the resources we need for the full implementation of the Act," he said.

INSIDE

MENCAP's Secretary-General	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Anti-discrimination debate	3
Month in Parliament	3
Reports	4
Getting there!	5
Castle Priory	6
CPO news	7
IYY: Sound, Vision, Action	8-9
Outlook	10-11
A small price to pay	12
Local Group news	13
Margaret Morgan	14
What's On and Classifieds	14

TUBMATE®

BATH LIFT

The help you need to take a bath.

Requiring only a simple connection to the mains supply for water pressure operation, the TUB-MATE gently lifts and lowers you into and out of the bath, yet can easily be removed. The seat swivels and the control switch is conveniently mounted on the left or right armrest.

Send coupon today for FREE brochure — no stamp needed, or Tel: (04463) 3030

Yes! I'd like to know more about the ASGO TUB-MATE LIFT ☐

Please send details on the ASGO EASY-LIFT CHAIR ☐ ASGO STAIR-GLIDE ☐

Name DN 585

Address

Tel No

ASGO
LIMITED

Send to: ASGO Ltd, FREEPOST, COWBRIDGE, SOUTH GLAMORGAN CF7 7ZZ

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

Thanks for

DISTECH

May I through *Disability Now* thank The Spastics Society for putting on the Distech conference at Manchester in March. People I spoke to afterwards felt that it was a good two days, well spent, and we all felt that we had gained something in one way or another.

John Cox, in his opening address, spoke about the work of A.D.A.P.T. Greater Manchester, and its progress. As Chairperson of A.D.A.P.T. I would like on behalf of all the disabled of Greater Manchester, to thank The Spastics Society, and in particular people like Nigel Smith and Mrs Joan Harris, the first chairperson, for the work they did in setting up A.D.A.P.T. nine years ago and for the financial backing they gave to us. Without this help it would not have got off the ground. Even now they have made a grant to us so that we can go ahead with a survey for access to the railway stations in the Greater Manchester area.

Pat Entwistle
(Chairperson)
A.D.A.P.T. Greater Manchester
11 Mill Lane
Denton
Manchester M34 1RD

Stop talking and get on with it!

Two letters in *Disability Now* (April) merit comment even though there is only an indirect connection between them.

The first, from Jane Dick, Meldreth Manor Parents' Association, is a heartfelt plea for assurance that the children finishing their education at 19+ or earlier, will not be forgotten or "pushed" to one side because The Spastics Society has not made sufficient provision for their future.

Mrs Dick has my sympathy as my daughter was also educated for 8 years at Meldreth Manor.

As far as I know, a child can now remain at Meldreth up to the age of 19, providing sponsorship is still continued by the Education Department of the appropriate local authority. Alternatively, it may be possible to have the last two years at Dene College or - if you are very lucky and the child has the ability - it could be Beaumont College, Lancaster.

However, Dene College in Kent, which my daughter attended for 2 years, is not, in my opinion and also the opinion of several parents we came in contact with, the answer for every student with a severe multiple handicap, and I wished my daughter could have remained at Meldreth, even if it is a more protective environment.

I think we should be wary that what, in theory, seems the answer towards integration and independence, when put into practice just doesn't work.

At the end of the course some will go into residential care providing a good home is available; some will return to their own home and attend a local A.T.C. for the mentally handicapped, and a few may gain a place in a day centre for the physically handicapped. The options are not as yet very varied.

Sad as it is, there does not seem to be any definite Govern-

ment legislation for social services in all areas to adhere to, and consequently provision varies a lot depending upon where the handicapped person lives.

We chose residential care with The Spastics Society providing it was nearer home. We were fortunate to obtain a place for our daughter, but I must stress that it is high time the Society got on quickly with updating and modernising some of its older residential homes instead of continually talking about it with the same old excuse - lack of finance. There does not seem to be any lack of finance when it comes to increasing staff in all the administrative departments.

For us and our daughter, it does seem a happy ending - or will be when all residential homes are as near as possible like home. But I accept that it is not the answer for everyone and that is why there should be freedom of choice. I do suggest that Mrs Dick and other parents go on fighting for their rights.

The other letter which saddened me is the one from Roger Billinge, Deputy Head, Meldreth Manor, in reply to Peter Knight's (Deputy Head, Dene College) article in the February issue. While both made valid points according to their own standards, and Mr Billinge had need to reply to put the matter in perspective, I do not condone professional employees stating their personal views so openly, when those views are clearly very conflicting.

Unfortunately my feelings may only be appreciated by parents who have had a son/daughter attending both establishments and who, like me, may feel strongly on the suitability of staff the Society - in its wisdom - has chosen to employ.

Could I finally make a plea to the Society to stop talking and formulating long term objectives, which in itself is a very costly exercise in terms of money and time, and get on quickly with those already decided before - as Mrs Dick quite rightly says - it is too late.

Ruth Anderson
Chairman of the Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group

An interim report on "Residential Provision for Multiply Handicapped Adults - national, NW region and Ribbles Valley" has been prepared by Janet Bodington, secretary of Meldreth Manor School Parents' Association. It is available free from her (send A4 envelope and 18p stamp), 4 Brookside, Buxton, Lancashire PR7 6HR - Editor

What's your view?

Many blind and visually handicapped people, and the organisations which represent them are campaigning for "textured pavements" at such significant points as approaches to pelican crossings. Textured pavements are pavements with lots of small bumps in them so that visually handicapped people can tell by the changing texture under their feet that they are at a crossing.

The Society was asked by the Joint Council for Mobility of the Disabled to support the introduction of these pavements on a general basis and, as the Society's representative on the Committee I felt unable to pass an opinion because I do not know how cerebral palsied people feel about them.

MENCAP's SECRETARY-GENERAL

Co-operation, not competition

According to John Ruskin, "Government and co-operation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition the laws of death".

His conclusion may well point the way ahead for a number of voluntary bodies, at present working away in splendid isolation.

I do not believe that either The Spastics Society or the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults would lay claim to charges of anarchy. But competition? Undoubtedly and understandably that has been present in the years when the two great voluntary organisations have been growing up side by side.

Originally, both movements were conceived in common desperation by parents with similar egalitarian principles, convinced that the world outside must be made to recognise the needs of their handicapped children (and, often, handicapped families) and to make some basic provision to improve their condition. But there, I suspect, the ways and means parted.

MENCAP came together in a rather loosely-knit, self-help co-operative, not concerned with raising funds, but believing that mutual help would provide the basic necessities, and that central and local Government had a duty to fill the gaps by providing services and meeting the bill.

The Spastics Society, on the other hand, were perhaps a little more cynical and thought that large sums of money were necessary to enable privately-run schools and training centres to be opened sooner than later. A more aggressive stance was taken, therefore, in relation to fund-raising.

Thus the two organisations developed their own separate and independent identities.

As each organisation has matured, both basic concepts have come closer together, and it can now be seen that statutory authorities have provided much - as a result of considerable pressure from both groups - and that owning a school or a training centre nowadays can sometimes be an embarrassment. Handicapped children grow up; expectations for them in adulthood are greater, and the general perception of care, opportunity and quality of life is constantly shifting.

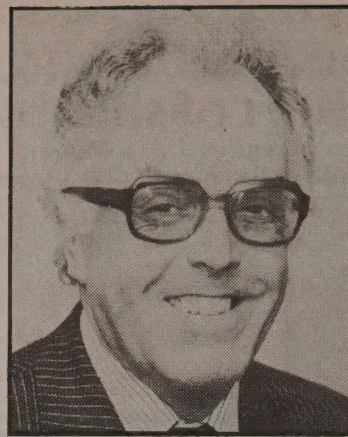
In spite of this narrowing of the gap between our respective movements, the two societies have continued to see themselves as separate entities, pursuing separate goals at times causing a great deal of overlap to

Do people in wheelchairs, or people who have ambulatory difficulties, find them a hinderance?

May I please ask cerebral palsied people to write to me giving their views.

Nigel Smith
Regions Services Development Manager
The Spastics Society
12 Park Crescent
London W1N 4EQ

Would letter writers please keep to a 400 word limit. Short letters mean more letters printed - including yours - Editor



Brian Rix

the detriment of handicapped people and their families.

But that was the way of the world back in the '50s, '60s and '70s, and after all we were still growing up.

In recent years both organisations have matured, because both are now firmly rooted in the consciousness of the British public and secure in the knowledge of their own individual usefulness and ability to produce many of the answers to the problems of handicap.

The International Year of Disabled People helped to forge links. For the first time, voluntary associations representing both physically and mentally disabled people sat down together and discussed matters of mutual concern. They found, often to their surprise, that there was much which was of considerable interest to all involved.

To take a simple point: access. Fire regulations are the standard excuse for excluding both physically and mentally handicapped people from places of entertainment, hotels, offices *et al.*

Regrettably, the truth is far more basic and simple than that. Many people are uncomfortable in the presence of anyone who is "different" and wish to duck the issue at all costs. The Spastics Society and MENCAP should stand four-square on this fundamental point.

To our credit, campaigns to change public attitudes towards those who are our concern have been extremely effective in recent years. However, our "poli-

tical" moves have often been uncoordinated.

Yet our need to effect the same legislation is unquestionable. When oral evidence was being given last year to the Commons' Select Committee on Community Care, it was interesting to note that witnesses from both Societies were called together.

If the politicians themselves see our needs as inseparable, should we not capitalise on this and co-operate more closely as a matter of urgency and expediency?

If we consider the areas where our joint endeavours could be more effective, we may well be surprised. Care in the Community, anti-discrimination, the 1981 Education Act, staff training, service and housing development, policy and professional practice, medical research and on, and on.

Although we are both members of the Independent Development Council for People with Mental Handicap (along with MIND, Dr Barnardo's and others) that is a forum for issuing practical advice - not for direct action - so it does not completely fill the bill.

However, all is not lost. In March this year, a meeting took place between the directors of both Societies. It was an extremely fruitful occasion and augurs well for the future.

I think perhaps now we can more faithfully echo Ruskin. "Government and co-operation are in all things the laws of life".

From being a well-known actor/manager, Brian Rix moved in 1980 to being Secretary-General of the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. There he has helped to set up many schemes for handicapped people and their families. He has encouraged cooperation with other agencies and become involved with many of them - for example, he is Chairman of the Independent Development Council for People with Mental Handicap and a Vice-President of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. His elder daughter, Shelley, has Down's Syndrome.

Pendragon Elevator

... wheelchair wizardry!

It does what the other powered indoor/outdoor chairs do, and then, does more!

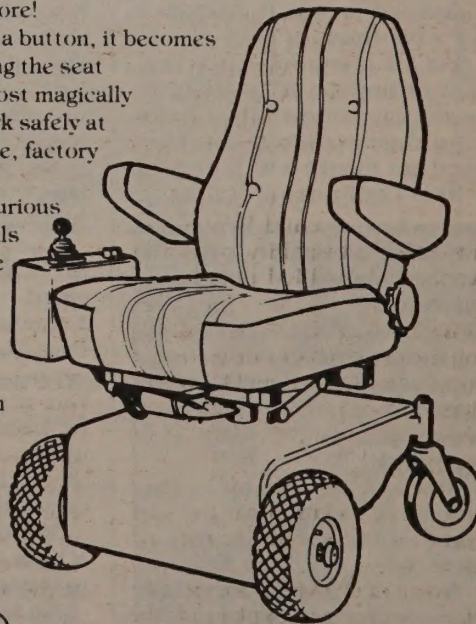
PRESTO! at the touch of a button, it becomes a working chair. By powering the seat height by a variable 8", almost magically the user can transfer or work safely at various surfaces in the office, factory and throughout the home.

It's an illusion! - a luxurious chair that works, in materials and colours chosen with the users environment in mind. The basic module of the Pendragon Elevator with its amazing turning abilities, lends itself to even more illusions by custom-building the chair into almost any shape or style.

Send off now for a free catalogue and details of further magic!

Joncare

Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon, Oxon. Tel: (0235) 28120/29353 Telex: 837744



It is now almost 3½ years since the Report of the Committee on Restrictions Against Disabled People (CORAD) called for legislation to outlaw discrimination against disabled people. What has happened since then?

Very little, according to disabled people who continue to have their freedoms curtailed and need the legislation to open up opportunities.

A great deal, according to the social scientists who would be surprised at any social reform taking less than 10 years.

The Government, opposing Mr Donald Stewart's, Mr Bob Wareing's and Lord Longford's Private Members Bills, set its defence on disabled people needing "specific practical measures to tackle specific practical problems" (as the Minister for the Disabled put it) rather than anti-discrimination legislation. Since then, although "specific practical problems which require specific practical answers" abound, useful measures are scarce.

The Government is on a good wicket playing out time. If disabled people have to tackle each specific practical problem every time it is encountered, they will have no time to tackle the root cause. Thus one person's fight cannot be another's victory, nor can one person's lesson be another's education.

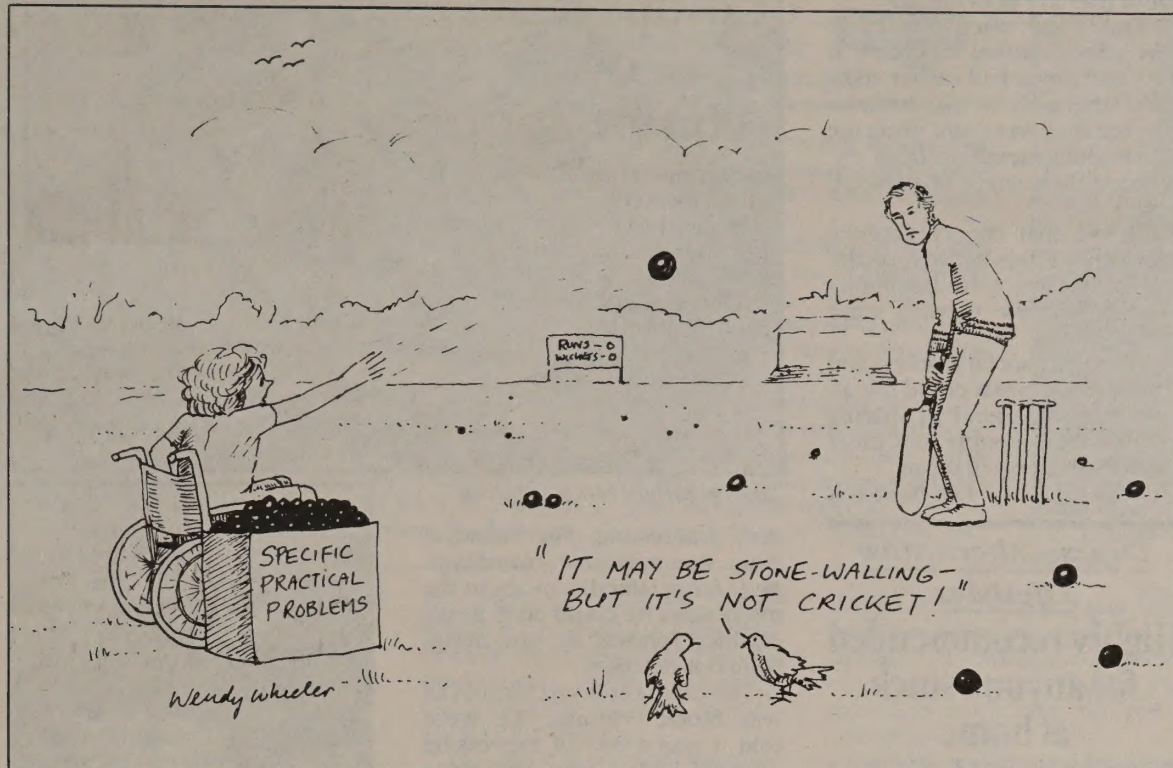
Moreover, it is impossible for everyone to tackle everything and, as the human mind is such a magnificent machine for developing "reasons" to justify whatever its owner does, the specific practical solution approach is doomed.

The failure of the specific approach is illustrated by setting up pedestrian precincts that pay scant regard to the needs of disabled people. A host of "no-go" areas for disabled people has

"Progress depends on fewer disabled people being grateful for everything short of shabby treatment"

Peter Large of the Disablement Income Group and the chairman of CORAD looks at the state of play in discrimination legislation

Crispin Hughes



thus been created, and the Government's answer is that these local matters are best handled by local representations. Unfortunately, disabled people are too few on the ground to fight successfully for access to every high street or to oppose every other unnecessary restriction.

With the Government stonewalling, what have the voluntary organisations done to enhance disabled people's freedom?

Notable among those that have done something is The

Spastics Society, one of the first to affirm full support for CORAD's recommendation.

It was also The Spastics Society that organised conferences around the country to discuss the question. Even though some people who attended them were confused about what discrimination was and others over-optimistic about how much the meek might inherit, the conferences produced a clear call for legislation to protect disabled people against discrimination. This demand was later made the

subject of presentations at the 1984 Party Conferences by The Spastics Society.

Notable, too, is the Disablement Income Group which almost secured the support Mr Wareing's Bill needed for a Second Reading in November 1983. Its countrywide effort was so successful that, without precedent in the disabled field, the Government's Payroll Vote had to be called back on a Friday afternoon to block the Bill.

Also notable was RADAR, which first did nothing and then

one thing and another. Happily, RADAR has now recanted, voting last month for the principle of legislation to combat discrimination.

Further progress came last September with the formation of the Voluntary Organisations Against Discrimination, again largely thanks to The Spastics Society. The constituent bodies – British Deaf Association, Disablement Income Group, GLAD, MIND, RADAR, RNIB and The Spastics Society – have helped to secure a better understanding of the phenomenon, and produced some of the cases that formed the basis for discussion in The Spastics Society's recent paper, *Discrimination and Disabled People*.

There has also been the suggestion of a Council for the Disabled, one of whose tasks could be to operate as the "office" suggested by CORAD to pursue cases and eventually oversee any Act outlawing discrimination.

The difficulty of defining what else this proposed umbrella of umbrella organisations would do makes its formation unlikely. The even greater difficulty of ensuring that it would be representative of disabled people and that it would not be just a prestigious club for the disabled establishment makes such a Council an unlikely body for reform.

Further progress, therefore, depends on more disabled people complaining about discrimination and fewer being grateful for everything short of shabby treatment. It will also depend on more cases being reported and CORAD's "office" being set up to pursue them.

Above all, it will depend on more disabled people learning to expect more from life than do-goodery.

MONTH IN PARLIAMENT



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Welfare State being "dismantled" says Meacher

Introducing the Opposition Day Debate on the Welfare State on 22 April, Michael Meacher MP, Labour front bench spokesman on social services, accused the Government of dismantling rather than reviewing the welfare state.

The Labour Party would, he said, improve child benefit and introduce a disability costs allowance for disabled people. Implementing these measures, along with others such as changing the present administration of Supplementary Benefit, would depend on Labour's success in reducing unemployment – its top priority.

Much of the debate centred around speculation on the outcome of the social security review.

Norman Fowler, Social Services Secretary, explained the purposes of the review (due to be published this month). They are: to simplify the current system and make it more understandable; to improve adminis-

trative efficiency; to place more trust and responsibility on individuals rather than on the state, and to reduce the obstacles to employment and economic activity.

The Government, he said, was committed to a modern welfare state that reflects the needs of today.

Disappointment at no VAT relief

The question of VAT relief for charities arose once or twice during debates on the Finance Bill in the Second Reading on 29 April and at Committee Stage on 7 May.

During Second Reading, Tim Yeo MP (Conservative) expressed the "bitter disappointment" of the Charities VAT Reform Group (CVRG) that no significant VAT relief was granted to charities this year, particularly as the group had made constructive suggestions about specific reliefs.

He also said that the extension of VAT to newspaper advertising is a considerable burden to charities who in many cases use newspaper advertisements as their main method of fund-raising.

During Committee Stage, Tim Yeo and others were placed in the position once again of refuting the old Treasury arguments against granting VAT relief to charities: that it would be indiscriminate in its effect – extending to controversial and restrictive organisations as well as those which enjoy wide public support – and that the administrative costs of granting relief would be high.

It is very disappointing to find that after so many years of dialogue between the CVRG and

the Treasury, these same arguments are being trotted out.

Alf Morris MP (Labour) quoted from a letter he had received from John Cox about the double blow dealt to The Spastics Society in the Budget.

On top of the estimated £700,000 the Society will already have to pay in VAT will be another £30,000 to cover the VAT bill on newspaper advertising.

Referring to the Society's "awareness-raising" poster campaign, John Cox was quoted as saying, "Not only will the VAT on advertising restrict The Spastics Society's ability to raise money; it will affect educational advertising that is designed to promote greater understanding of disability and of the problems and needs of disabled people."

An amendment seeking to exclude charities from VAT on newspaper advertisements was lost, 119 to 220.

Handicapped Young Persons Bill

Under the 10 Minute ruling, Clement Freud MP (Liberal) has introduced a Handicapped Young Persons Bill which aims to amend the Education Act 1981 in two ways.

First it would improve the appeal procedure. Under the Act, children who have or may have special needs are assessed by experts and provided with a statement setting out their needs and how the LEA intends to meet them. Where the parents are not satisfied either with original LEA decision to make a statement or with the proposals contained in it, they can appeal. The appeal tribunal can accept the statement or it can send it back, but it cannot change it.

"This contrasts unfavourably with the tribunals under the 1980 Act, where the decisions are legally binding on the LEA," said Clement Freud.

Second, the Bill proposes to extend protection and provision for the 16-19 group by extending the 1981 Education Act to cover 16-19 year olds who are at further education colleges rather than schools. Even though LEAs have a duty to provide education beyond 16 and ministers have repeated that this is so, provision is still not good enough.

It was wrong that "provision for handicapped people should be a lottery... depending not on need or ability but on where one lives and how loudly one's parents can shout," said Clement Freud.

His own shouts will, sadly, come to nothing, since the Government is unlikely to give the Bill a Second Reading.

HOUSE OF LORDS

1981 Education Act

On 16 May Baroness David (Labour) asked the Government how it is monitoring the 1981 Education Act and how it proposes to monitor it in the future.

Replying for the Government, The Earl of Swinton said that this was done in 3 ways: frequent reports from HM's Inspectorate; a 3-year research project commissioned from London University to monitor the development of local policy and provision for special needs; and local seminars to promote discussion and provide guidance on the professional co-operation required by the new procedures.

The Baroness revealed that 15 authorities have not sent in their

returns for the number of children assessed, with statements, although these should have been sent in by last January. She asked whether the minister was certain that these 15 authorities are implementing the Act properly.

"I cannot comment on the 15 authorities individually beyond saying that there are bound to be teething problems with a major piece of social legislation," he replied.

He then gave the following figures. The number of children ascertained as handicapped in ordinary schools rose from 29,976 in January '82 to 37,970 in January '83. Provisional returns for January '84 are 48,069.

Speech therapy cuts

On 16 May Lord Campbell of Croy (Labour) asked the Government what consideration it is giving to the problems of handicaps in speech. He warned of false economies and referred to cut backs in training and placing speech therapy students.

He argued that if patients can regain the ability to communicate by speech, disabled as they may be in other ways, they can return to a life in the community, and if speech therapists help children early enough they can reduce or avoid the need for expensive care and treatment later.

He asked the Government to direct more attention to speech therapy and suggested that it should become a higher priority in the N.H.S.

Many Lords spoke in the debate, some with great feeling and from personal knowledge. They all paid tribute to the work of speech therapists and confirmed that this is an essential service which should continue to improve.

Sharron Saint Michael

REPORTS

Conference: Principals of Normalisation

Fear, anger and frank talking

A group of handicapped and able-bodied professionals came together for a conference on "Principles of Normalisation" at the King's Fund Centre from 30 April to 1 May.

That grand title really means the every-day responses experienced by handicapped people and those caring or responsible for them.

Looking at various slides and the images they created evoked a lot of discussion.

The person who suffers from epilepsy and has to wear a crash helmet to protect his head - how much does that separate him off from society?

The residential centre with clowns on the wall or the shabby looking charity shop - what do they do for a disabled person's image of themselves.

Sadly, money is often the overriding reason for stupid sentimentality. Pitiful pictures make it pour in and the bridges of understanding that are being slowly built can be exploded with one piece of tear-jerking journalism.

More importantly, the conference showed that the needs of the able-bodied and the handicapped are almost identical. We all need love, security and to be valued. The differences are lack of opportunity for new experiences in life, both social and environmental, and lack of privacy or freedom to do certain everyday tasks and to have control over one's personal affairs.

A recent study discovered that the social worker has an average of 3 hours a year in which to have face-to-face contact with the client. Is it any wonder that there is little feeling of rapport or relationship?

What I believe to be the most honest confrontation of the whole conference came when the head of a centre actually

admitted his fear of disabled people and asked how it could be overcome.

The disabled people said that there should be more honesty and openness; social workers and other professionals should admit they are not God.

(This frank discussion came only after disabled members at the conference had earlier separated themselves off, because they felt they were inhibiting the able-bodied members from expressing their anger or personal fears.)

It's sad that the conference lasted only 2 days because on the second day we were beginning to relax and the barriers were coming down.

What a pity social workers and other professionals could not always have this kind of sharing with disabled people and meet each other on equal terms.

Lin Berwick

Course: Alternative Lifestyles

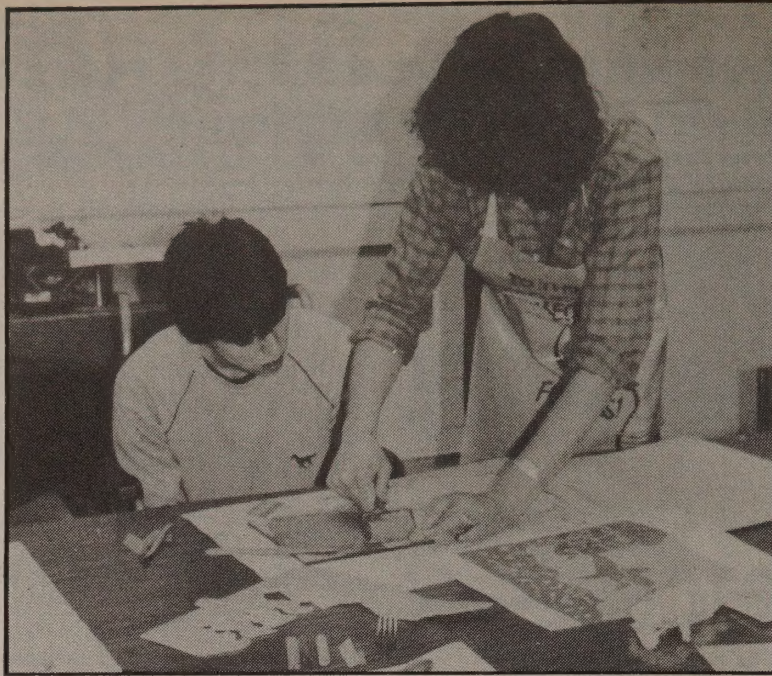
Highly recommended for anyone stuck at home

In March this year I attended a four-day course at Hereward College, Coventry. The course was devised by Sue Hennessy, The Spastics Society's careers advisory officer, who is trying to bring unemployed young adults together to try out different activities. It was also for us to share other people's experiences and maybe learn by them.

There were quite a lot of activities such as horse riding, gardening and operating computers. We had to choose three, two of them to do in the morning and one which had to last a whole day.

The first morning I did local history with Bob Seville, a lecturer at the college. He showed us slides of places of interest around Coventry and explained about the history and how we could find out the history of our own area. The morning ended with a trip round Coventry.

Earnings from Home was also



Sharon Knight block printing...

very interesting. Pat Saunders from the magazine *Handicapped Living* talked to us about the many ways we could do it. Being disabled himself, he saw things from our position.

The topic I enjoyed most of all was Block Printing. We were told it was a way of expressing yourself and it was. Designing your own picture and printing it is very satisfying. I also learned that it can still be your own work despite the fact that you might need help. I was really pleased with the result of my picture and I had a great sense of achievement.

In the evenings we heard about different holidays for the disabled, and people spoke about their experiences. We all got on well with each other.

The whole course was thoroughly enjoyable and I am going to follow up a lot of what I picked up from other people.

I went home full of hope for the future and with a lot more self confidence which I got from making new friends.

I highly recommend the course to anyone who's stuck at home because it gives you a whole new lease of life. Well, it did me.

Sharon Knight

Conference: The computer as an aid for those with special needs

No workshops, few disabled people

This two and a half day conference and exhibition at Sheffield City Polytechnic in April was the third annual meeting of its type held by the Sheffield local ACTIVE group.

The interest and support given by almost 100 delegates illustrates the continuing need for broad discussion. However, the title of the conference covered such a wide field that inevitably delegates from areas like adult training centres and social services departments found only a little of the material directly relevant. This is regrettable since these areas seem to be starved of basic information and support.

Special education was by comparison well represented, although themes like disparity in school resources, the diffidence of some teachers towards new technology, and the continuing need to question and assess the use of the "micro" in the classroom, recurred frequently. The quality and enthusiasm of the speakers meant that generally the room full of nodding heads was due to agreement and not boredom.



... Ann Morgan-Evans riding.

Hopefully, for next year, the organisers will heed the request for workshop discussion sessions for the different disciplines to share experiences in dealing with the problems which beset their individual groups.

Children with special needs did not entirely dominate the conference; papers were presented on special needs in further education, computer studies courses for physically handicapped adults, applied technology in work preparation, and braille and music.

Throughout the conference, and in the exhibition, there was a significant emphasis upon software and applications, rather than special hardware. Hardware only appeared as an inexpensive part of programs for teaching measurement estimation, and in a speech recognition system that would replace the keyboard of the microcomputer to give access to standard software: even in this instance the elements of the system were all commercial products.

Most delegates appeared to have enjoyed the conference, and gained something, if only a little weight from the catering!

Despite all the provisions made, there were very few delegates with disabilities.

Peter Watts

Banstead Place Mobility Centre, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey, tel: 07373 51674/56222/51756.

The mobility unit travels round the country offering 2-hour car adaptation assessments for £35.

Newcastle 3-7 June (R.H. Patterson & Co Ltd, Scotswood Road, Newcastle, tel: 0632 739161)

Norwich 8-12 July (Spruce Howlett, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, tel: 0603

21st AGM: Disabled Drivers' Motor Club

Pedestrian schemes infringe human rights

A decision to treat pedestrian schemes as an infringement of human rights was the most telling point made at the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Disabled Drivers Motor Club, held in Bradford on 21 May. The proposer argued that pedestrian schemes often make it impossible for ambulatory disabled people to visit places they could previously.

With some reservations, the following resolution was passed: "The DDMC together with other organisations should consider taking a local authority to the European Court over pedestrianisation of shopping areas."

I myself am not sure that the proposal would get the support of many disabled people who find shopping in such areas easier.

The Redex cup, which is presented annually to the person who, in the opinion of the club's management council, has done the most for disabled drivers, went this year to Mrs Morigue Cornwell, Mobility Officer of The Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled, Banstead Place Mobility Centre. (Last year it went to Ann Frye of the Department of Transport.)

The centre provides demonstrations and full or part-day assessment for new or experienced drivers. It can draw on a wealth of expertise including a medical consultant, orthoptist, educational psychologist and a driving consultant.

The DDMC is, I think, an active, well formed organisation run, on the whole, in a far more professional way than many



Redex cup winner, Morigue Cornwell.

similar groups. The bi-monthly paper is informative - if somewhat dour - and with the information leaflets and other services makes the £3 annual subscription well worthwhile.

My main criticism of the club would be its extraordinary male domination. Only 2 out of 18 council members and 1 out of 12 vice presidents are female. With that kind of bias it is unlikely that many women members will put themselves forward for election.

It seems to me that the club needs a vigorous policy of encouraging women, rather than the half-hearted "if any ladies (yes, ladies) would like to put themselves forward". This is 1985, isn't it?

Marion Bowen

Continued on page 6

Grand 8 day holiday to the beautiful Makarska Riviera and the clear blue waters of the Adriatic, YUGOSLAVIA.

£285

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS departing 20th July. Fencing, canoeing, archery, golf, basketball, swimming, arts & crafts, drama, computer course including all meals, specialist equipment and clothing and evening entertainment.

£149

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP HOLIDAYS Lanzarote, Portugal, Austria, France, Holland, Cyprus, Florida and Channel Isles.

FLY AND COACH TOUR HOLIDAYS in Israel, Malta, Lake Como and Ireland.

£78

As featured on ITV U.K. HOLIDAYS including all meals from

For FREE colour brochure send this coupon NOW! or Telephone 061-236 9763

Name _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Threshold Travel LTD

Wrendal House, 2 Whitworth Street West, Manchester. M1 5WX

Simon Crompton

Getting there!



This month British Rail launches new facilities for disabled people. Chris Davies meets the man behind the breakthrough



"Here I sit, the previous day's telephone call being repeated over and over again in my head - date, time location - outside the Downs Buffet on Victoria Station at a quarter-to-nine."

"Well, I'm here, Where the bloody hell are you... British Rail?"

Ten-to-nine. I look around anxiously. Overhead the world rushes past, oblivious to any signs of anxiety creeping across my face. It was not my face they were looking at.

From the corner of my eye I see a red-rimmed cap weaving towards me. Thank heavens.

A voice from below the cap said, "You for Chichester, mate?"

I nodded and said yes.

"My train leaves in 2 minutes and..."

"Back in a minute, son."

Needless to say I did not see old "Red Rimmed" for 5 minutes. My train had gone but I had not gone with it.

Mark Dower* (January '85)



Bill Buchanan, BR's Special Advisor on the Disabled.

Care attendant Philip Harris pushes Chris Davies up BR's new ramp on wheels at Euston Station.

Mark Dower is not the only disabled person to have suffered at the hands of British Rail. And if he had caught the train, up until quite recently he would have spent the journey in the guard's van. That was the only place which could accommodate a wheelchair.

Thankfully, things are beginning to change. New stock with wider doors enables wheelchair passengers to travel in first class carriages, and in April a new toilet for disabled people was launched on the London-Glasgow line.

This month BR is launching its new station facilities for disabled people in 57 "core" (main-line) stations throughout the country.

Each station will have:

- ★ a unisex toilet
- ★ white lines at the edge of all platforms and at the top and bottom of all staircases for partially-sighted people
- ★ induction loops in ticket offices and information offices for deaf people and the hard-of-hearing
- ★ television screens displaying train times or, in bigger stations, dot-matrix displays for deaf people
- ★ disabled parking facilities
- ★ metal folding ramps on wheels (replacing the old surf-board type) to enable wheelchair passengers to board trains
- ★ wheelchairs for those who need them
- ★ some way of moving between platforms - either ramps, lifts, re-decorated goods lifts or underpasses
- ★ staff trained and ready to assist disabled passengers.

It all sounds good, but will it work? Is there a new attitude to disabled people among BR staff as well as among the policy-makers? Will the facilities be extended to other stations?

To find out, I went along to the British Railways Board last month to meet the man who is said to be the architect of the new policies, Bill Buchanan, BR's Special Advisor on the Disabled.

His reputation was daunting. He was a vice-president of Canadian National Railways, when he had an accident in 1978 which confined him to a wheelchair, and he has been with BR since 1981. This career, together with his apparently conservative, businessman-like style, made me fear his appointment might be a token gesture by his employers and that he might be intent on preserving the *status quo*.

Moreover, as a person with a spinal injury, he might not be able to identify easily with a severe disability such as mine, for many people with acquired disabilities have difficulty aligning

themselves with other disabled people.

Bill Buchanan was hired by the then Chairman of BR, Peter Parker. "He wondered whether the combination of someone already a railwayman and someone with a new-found expertise might be useful in trying to make it possible for disabled people to travel on British Rail without anxiety and in comfort," Bill Buchanan told me.

It was, as he says himself, a tremendous assignment. BR has 18,000 pieces of rolling stock and 2,700 stations.

Fortunately, he had an open-ended brief and could do what he liked, so he approached it as a military operation, putting long-haul journeys between major towns and cities top of his list.

"My first objective was the stations. There were no unisex



The new "courtesy vehicle" for elderly and disabled people, now at Euston.

toilets. There were white lines on some stations but not on others, which is deadly dangerous for the partially sighted; telephones that are out of reach of you and me, or telephone boxes that you could not get into; no help for partially deaf people. Many stations were not ramped properly. Many had no way of getting from one platform to another except by staircases."

Of all these faults, he decided toilets must be the first priority because with people often making long journeys before and after reaching a station such provision was essential. After that, he put enabling people to get from one platform to another.

From these initial goals, he has now been able to go a lot further. He is the first to admit, though that the progress made has not been the work of one person.

Although he is the only disabled employee on the project, he has a national panel of disabled people which meets 3 or 4 times a year in London, as well as regional panels in Scotland and the Eastern Region, and at least one disabled person on the Customer Services committee of the other 3 regions. The national panel is in direct contact with top BR managers.

I asked Bill about the role of

the national advisory panel, which is composed of representatives of organisations and groups concerned with disability. (Valerie Lang of The Spastics Society is a member.)

He says it is given information about new developments and the opportunity to question and advise BR staff who come to meetings.

The other main task of the panel is to go out and about, testing and monitoring the new facilities. The 12 members of the panel do not do this alone.

"I have disabled people all over the country," says Bill Buchanan. "What I do is phone them up and ask them to go and check. Because, you know, it's a strange thing, but unless you have a disabled person there to check it out, it's not going to be right."

He also relies on feedback from disabled travellers and their helpers, who report their experiences, good or bad. He passes on compliments as well as complaints.

British Rail is not, of course, made of money. Particularly for the smaller stations, it seeks help from organisations such as the Rotary Club or companies like Marks and Spencer who, in return for recognition of their help, contribute towards the cost of induction loops and toilets.

The launch on 14 June will be a landmark not only for BR but for Bill Buchanan. For the first time there will be a uniform standard of provision for disabled people in mainline stations - and provided a station is not being completely overhauled, it will all be ready on the launch date.

The only thing Bill Buchanan cannot be certain of is the attitude of BR staff. A video made 2 years ago by BR for its staff must have helped to educate them to the needs of disabled people, but old attitudes may still prevail.

Bill Buchanan admits that communication is his biggest obstacle, not only ensuring that staff have the right approach to disabled people, but that there is no breakdown in the system which is meant to provide smooth transport.

"Put it like this," he says, "I am so aware of this problem that it's getting all my attention. I know it's a problem, and a problem that I have got to solve."

If communication is to succeed, then BR needs the help of disabled people - hence the need for advance warning of intended journeys. This is some-

*Mark Dower has Freidreich's Ataxia and is in a wheelchair. He is one of the young writers and artists resident at the C.R.Y.P.T. Foundation in Chichester.

thing I have always objected to because I have seen it as an obstacle to individual freedom of movement that other rail travellers don't have. Bill put it very reasonably.

"I think we have to be tough on this one. We cannot cope with an unexpected arrival any more because we have not got many people on the station platforms to help. Suppose you have one man taking tickets, looking after the station, answering questions, etc., and someone rolls up in a wheelchair. He thinks 'Oh my God!' and says, 'Where are you going? I don't know whether there is a seat taken out...' But if he knows that you are coming, the ramp will be there. He will have phoned the other station to see that the seat will be out. He can't do that without warning."

It is possible to take spontaneous journeys, but BR cannot guarantee the same security of service that can be given with due warning.

Here we came to a point of uncertainty. Bill Buchanan would like to see a permanent vacant space for wheelchairs in each first class coach on all major routes. But commercial press-

ures elsewhere in BR, together with the unsympathetic attitudes of able-bodied travellers, seem to be working against such a permanent provision. Luckily, seats in the new stock can be taken out more easily.

Not everything now runs smoothly. Why, for example, do disabled railcard holders have to send their renewal forms by post to York and wait for a reply when other railcard holders (including pensioners) can go to any rail office?

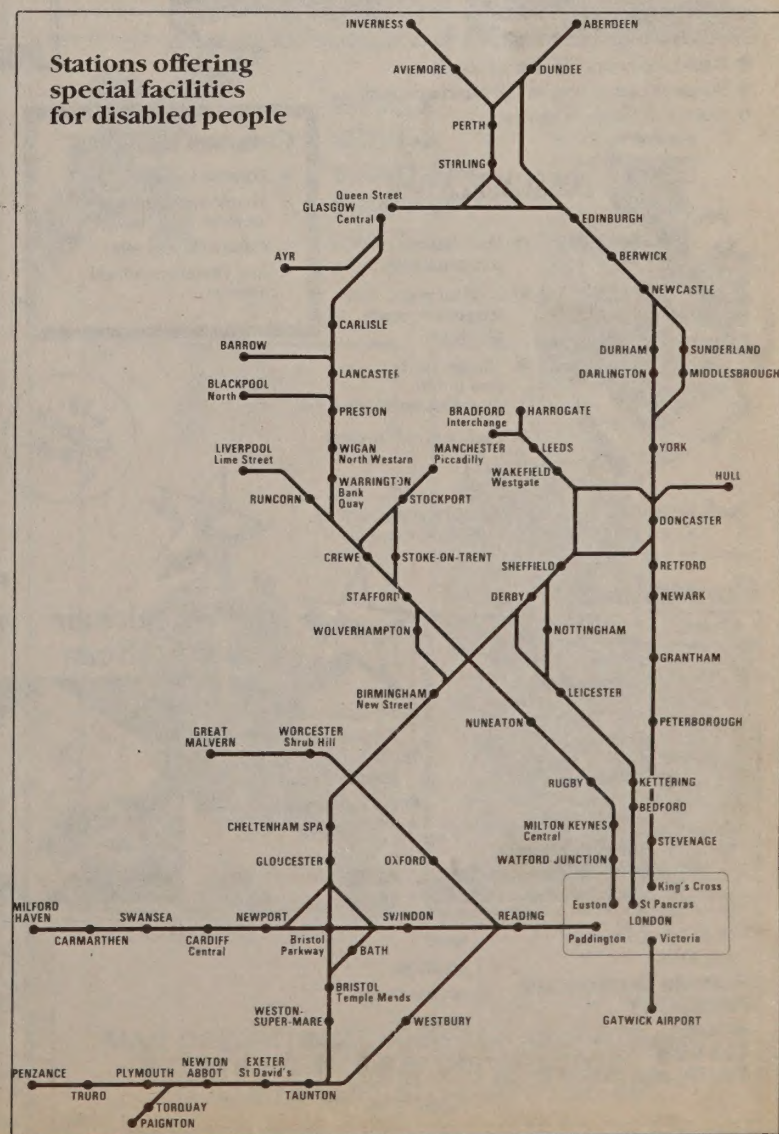
But basic progress has been made. And it is mainly thanks to Bill Buchanan.

"Before I leave this building," he says, "I want to be sure that British Rail have got it into their system, so that every time they build a new station or rolling stock, they don't have to go to anyone. They will have it down in black and white."

As disabled travellers, the least we can do is to help him. He would like to hear our views. He's on our side.

Write to W.G. Buchanan, Special Advisor on the Disabled, British Railways Board, 222 Marylebone Rd, London NW1

Stations offering special facilities for disabled people





CASTLE PRIORY

What is Normalisation?

Sue Smith, Ken Smith and Rosemary McCloskey helped a group of professionals understand a new concept in caring. Sue Smith reports

Normalisation is one of the newest concepts to be introduced into the field of social service provision during the last few years.

The word is often misunderstood, misinterpreted or inappropriately applied. One hears of practitioners trying to "make people normal".

It was to clarify and explore the principle of Normalisation that around 35 people from various service backgrounds came to Castle Priory in March. They wanted to find the answer to the question, "What is Normalisation?"

First we identified how services have developed - effectively segregating people with disabilities. We explored the use

of language and the importance of imagery and how these influence the assessment of need.

Everyone identified what they wanted from "an ordinary life" in order to clarify their own values and attitudes - an essential prerequisite to understanding that what is good for the practitioner cannot be bad for the recipient.

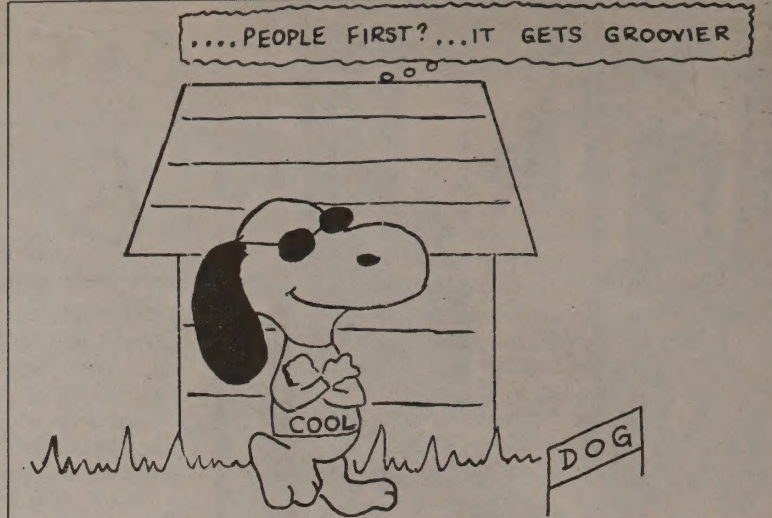
Then we had an exercise in which people related their needs to what is available for disabled people. It made them think about and identify more closely with people who have physical and mental disabilities, and consider how they could change their own attitudes and the services they provide.

The exercise was taken from the handbook, *Lifestyles*, which

is part of a new training pack produced by the East Sussex Consultancy and Training Agency (ESCATA) at Brighton Polytechnic.

Then everyone took part in an exercise which involved planning and delivering care in the community for someone from a long-stay hospital. People worked in small groups so they were able to challenge and support each other while also examining their own attitudes and practices carefully.

The exercise was supplemented with real-life experiences related by 5 disabled people. These showed that services are often non-existent or inappropriate, or they lead to a restricted lifestyle.



Using "real people" had a dramatic effect on the "professionals" in the audience: they had to sit and listen to "clients" giving their point of view. It won't be forgotten.

Everyone began to comprehend how people can be valued, respected and helped to lead dignified lives. They came to understand that Normalisation is not something which is "done" to people, but is a way of looking at what the service does and how it can help a person to achieve maximum physical and social integration and a lifestyle appropriate to his age and culture.

By presenting the principle and then using a practical exercise with a simulated case study, the tutors - Rosemary McClos-

key, Ken Smith and myself - hoped the principles could be grasped and then applied immediately. Many of the participants did grasp that people with disabilities have a right to live "an ordinary life" in the community with as much opportunity as possible to develop independence and choice.

Obviously one cannot expect to change the views of a lifetime in 2 days, but on the whole people left with a much more positive attitude.

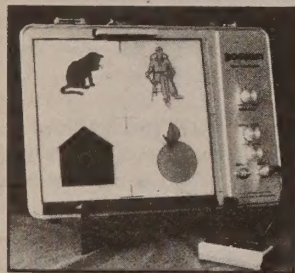
One hopes the course will have given them a sense of urgency and encouraged them to build on what they've learnt; that they will seek support for their own work and apply Normalisation more effectively.

possum

I am able

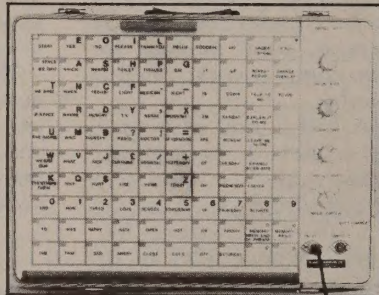
The Communicator Range

Communicator 16/4



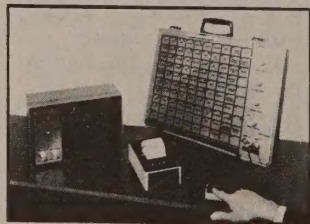
- Back-Lit for visually impaired people.
- Simple to change from 16 to 4 square operation.
- Built-in rechargeable battery.

Communicator 100



- Built-in rechargeable batteries.
 - 4 memory locations each storing 40 selections.
- BOTH the Communicator 100 and the Communicator 100SP have:
- Call square to attract attention.
 - Fully adjustable scan-rate, flash-time and recall rate.
 - Three scan modes to suit the user.

Communicator 100SP



- The 100SP has speech or print options and...
- Memory locations each storing 250 selections.

Common features:

- ★ Portable and easy to use.
- ★ Simple interchange of overlays.
- ★ Adjustable scan rate.
- ★ Any Possum input will operate.

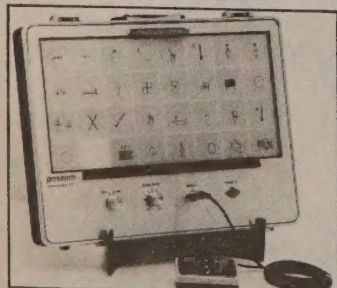
POSSUM/ELKOMI



- Push-button communication.
- Ideal for people with temporary speech problems.
- Display can be read in two directions simultaneously.
- Light and easy to carry.

NATIONWIDE ASSESSMENT/DEMONSTRATION SERVICE
BY EXPERIENCED POSSUM PROFESSIONALS

Communicator 32



- 32 squares for more extensive communication.
- Back-Lit for visually impaired people.
- Call appropriate square to attract attention.

Wheelchair PortaScan



- 6 squares.
- Easily mounted onto wheelchair tray.
- Built-in plate switch.
- Call tone.
- Battery operated.

For Further Details
Post to:
Possum Controls Ltd.
FREEPOST
Slough
SL3 6BR
Tel: Slough (0753) 79234

NAME:
POSITION:
ORGANISATION:
ADDRESS:
Daytime Tel. No.



BE OUR GUEST

Visit our showroom for a full demonstration of Possum electronic aids for disabled people. Try the equipment yourself. Groups or individuals welcome.
Borrow our video tapes, slides or films. We carry out demonstrations to interested groups at your location.
Telephone or write for arrangements.

Society "on line" to new database

The Spastics Society has been linked to a computer database giving information and advice on occupational aids.

"Aidline" is transmitted by telephone to a terminal at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square. It has files containing details of nearly 700 commercially available aids, 270 case studies demonstrating the use of existing work aids, and published information on all aspects of the employment of disabled people.

A 2-year project to establish a database was started in September 1983, after a preliminary study by PERA (Production Engineering Research Association) and The Spastics Society revealed

the problems disabled people experience due to the lack of a quick central service which gives information on work aids.

In the first year the project team, which included engineering and information specialists and an occupational therapist, collected and evaluated information.

Now the information has been accessed on a trial basis by disablement resettlement officers, members of the Manpower Services Commission's disablement advisory service, the Inner London Education Authority, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and RADAR as well as The Spastics Society.

The trial project finishes at the end of this year.

REPORTS

Continued from page 4

Midlands Regional Conference

We're moving in the right direction

I knew very little about Conductive Education before I attended the Midlands Regional Conference of The Spastics Society in Solihull on 21 April. However, once Carol Oviatt-Ham, principal of Rutland House School, had been introduced to her audience, it was not long before all, well, nearly all, was revealed.

Conductive Education is a form of learning which enables profoundly handicapped children to function as best as they can within the limits of their handicap. What stimulated my interest was that the term "education" was being used in its widest possible sense and that it considered the whole child and all its needs. The speaker showed that the method produces very positive results. How unfortunate that this kind of help is still only available to so few.

In the afternoon, David Owens of Churchtown Farm

Field Studies Centre in Cornwall took us on a guided tour in and around the Centre with the aid of slides and a short film.

This was followed by the Society's new film, *Insight*. It certainly is nowhere near as bad as I had been led to believe. In fact, it has a great deal that is commendable. As to what is wrong with it, perhaps the problem is oversimplification. Cerebral palsy is a complicated disability with very wide effects. It is beyond the capabilities of anyone to get everything over in a short film.

John Cox then took the Conference on another trip. This time into the future. In the positive, direct way which is so characteristic of him, he gave us some clear glimpses of where the Society is aiming for and how it should attempt to reach its objectives.

I hope I shall always keep in mind his comment about ensuring that people with cerebral palsy should be able to live rather than just exist.

I was also moved by the parent who thought aloud about the guilt of not having done enough.

There is so much waiting to be done. But here we got the firm impression that the Society is going in the right direction - a direction which will be to the benefit of us all.

Larry Walters



Lord Wilson (centre) talks with Alfred Morris MP, former Minister for the Disabled, (left) and John Cox, director of The Spastics Society.

Lord Wilson backs CPO

Lord Wilson (formerly Labour Prime Minister, Harold Wilson) held a reception for Cerebral Palsy Overseas at the Ritz Hotel, London on 24 April.

About 30 guests came, including the ambassadors of Greece

and Syria, Gordon Adam, chairman of Barclays Bank, and representatives from the British Council and The Spastics Society.

They heard about the work of CPO and the problems of running a small international agency

in the field of severe disability.

The reception was the first of several events planned for this year which aim to promote the activities of CPO and raise much needed cash to meet the growing demand for its services.

What makes a team work?

Derek Lancaster-Gaye reports on a seminar on team dynamics held in Bonn

Cerebral Palsy Overseas has now undertaken three training projects - in Cyprus, Mexico and Syria - and it has become increasingly evident that the success of such projects involves the careful selection of the right people; right, that is, not only because they have the right expertise and are capable of imparting knowledge in the right way, but right in the sense that despite their individual success in their own professions, they will work together with a common goal perhaps thousands of miles from home.

Having done their work, CPO must then evaluate what has been achieved - perhaps to repeat the exercise the next time or to adapt the approach in the light of lessons learnt.

We felt it would help to examine work that had already been done in developing countries. So we organised a 4-day seminar in Bonn in April.

Thirty administrators, doctors, therapists, educators, psychologists and representatives from international agencies - including the EEC, who met most of the costs - gathered to discuss the issues of team selection and project evaluation and to try and provide some of the answers. People came from all over Europe, and from the USA, the Philippines and Central Africa - thanks to the generosity of Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Hilfe Für Behinderte, an "umbrella" organisation for disabled people in West Germany, who met the costs of the "visiting" speakers.

There was general agreement that team selection involved a lot of luck. Cultural understanding, proper briefing, full acceptance of the objectives and the manner in which they would be achieved, and willingness to work together with colleagues in achieving those objectives were all considered major factors to success.



Bill Huddleston, chairman of CPO's Management Committee, listens to Waldemar Brummendorf, director-general of the VaK in W. Germany, host to CPO.

So far CPO has been successful in choosing teams meeting these criteria, so probably more of the same approach is indicated for the future.

But cerebral palsy is a complex disability, open to complex and often contradictory philosophies, so a full recognition of those contradictions was thought essential if the prospect of professional disagreement was to be avoided.

Lillemor Jernqvist, senior educational psychologist at The Spastics Society, provided an excellent basis for discussion on the problems of evaluation, and certainly there was broad agreement about the principles involved. Inevitably these included planned evaluation as part of the project work, whether this was a training exercise or the development of a new service. Clients needed to be aware of these plans and follow-up visits to the countries concerned seemed inevitable.

But evaluation could not always be measured in terms of progress. Much of CPO's work,

for example, involves the creation of more public awareness of the problems of cerebral palsy. While it would be fair to assume that public meetings and TV coverage improve understanding, it would be difficult to measure.

It was useful to hear about different problems and solutions from Leslie Park of United Cerebral Palsy in New York, Bob Stumbles of NASCOH in Zimbabwe and Joy Valdez from the Philippines. Altogether a useful meeting.

**MIDLANDS
MOTABILITY**
SUPPLIER
Ring: PHIL CLARIDGE
0926 314466
SYDENHAM DRIVE, LEAMINGTON



DISTECH in GREECE

Richard Gray tells of a new departure

Distech (Disability and Technology) conferences and workshops organised by The Spastics Society have been running in the UK since 1981. But last month, for the first time, Distech went abroad.

Partnered by ELEPAAP, the Hellenic Society for Handicapped Children, Cerebral Palsy Overseas organised 3 days of seminars and workshops in Athens, from 2-4 May. Funding came from the European Economic Commission.

200 parents and professionals came to the seminar and about 150 - many more than expected - to the workshops.

Distech Greece was opened by the British Ambassador, Sir Peregrine Rhodes. Mrs Mary Canellopoulos, president of ELEPAAP, and Mrs Joyce Smith, chairman of The Spastics Society and a director of CPO, both took part in the opening ceremony.

Dr N. Megapanos spoke of the needs of disabled people in Greece, while Dr E. Danos talked of the Hellenic Society's schools and treatment units.

During the first day there were four papers: Mrs Ena Davies, a lecturer in speech therapy at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education in Wales on "alternative forms of communication", from Red Indian signs to computers; John Frederiksen, director of Bolig-Motor-og Hjaelpemiddeludvalget, on the development of living options for handicapped people in Denmark; Dr Cristina Louro, director of the Centro Reabilitacao de Paralisia Cerebral Couleste Gulbenkian, on setting up further education and work units in Portugal; and Mrs Ester Cotton on Conductive Education - which is almost unknown in Greece.

On the second day, Dr G. Karantonis, director of the Red Cross Hospital at Voula, talked about the provision of mobility aids in Greece. Roger Jefcoate, a consultant assessor and lecturer in technical aids for disabled

people in the UK, demonstrated electronic and other aids which enable severely handicapped people to function at home and at work. Edward Pajonk, director of SNV Studiengesellschaft Nahverkehr mbH in West Germany, talked of mobility in an urban environment, and Mrs Prue Fuller, manager of the Aids to Communication in Education (ACE) Centre in Oxford, explained how computers can help severely handicapped children to communicate.

Judy Denziloe, information officer for ACTIVE, reminded us that technology need not be expensive and showed us ways of constructing low cost aids and toys, while Gregg Verderheiden, director of the Trace Research and Development Centre, University of Wisconsin at Madison, described the work of his centre and the technological possibilities opening up in the USA.

On the final day the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry was exchanged for a school and treatment centre run by the Hellenic Society where the workshops were held.

Such was the demand that 5 speakers had to give 4 workshops each: Gregg Vanderheiden on new technological aids to communication; Ester Cotton on Conductive Education; Judy Denziloe on low cost communication aids; Ena Davies on alternative forms of communication, and Prue Fuller on Apple software for children with communication difficulties.

New friends were made at Distech Greece, and, most importantly, Greek professionals and parents felt they had received valuable information which they could apply.

Some of the speakers will be returning to Greece for follow-up visits and workshops.

Published papers will be available in July from Richard Gray, Deputy-Director, Cerebral Palsy Overseas, 37 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9FB.



**WESSEX
MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT
COMPANY
LIMITED**

Unit Two, A.
Budds Lane
Industrial Est.
Romsey
Hampshire
(0794) 522022



TRAVELMASTER HOIST



STAIRSEATS

**MAN. OF ELECTRICAL HOISTS, STAIRSEATS AND
LIFTS. AGENTS FOR THE MEDIC BED.
POOL LIFTS. ELECTRIC DOOR OPENERS.**

Peter Upton



Photography workshop in action: (from left) Bashir Ahmed (Lancasterian School), Niel Barnard (Beaumont College), Colin Wilson (Lancasterian School) and Peter Davies, (Beaumont staff).

"To me, International Year of Youth means that the youth of today don't want bombs or nuclear weapons. We just want peace."

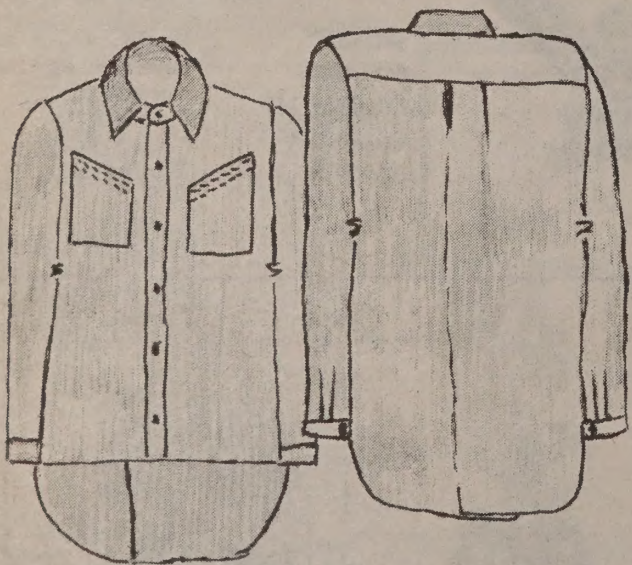
During Sound Vision Action week I was working with the photography group. We started with the topic of war and peace, and decided to make a poster. One of the ideas was to have the world leaders on a bus, driving up to a sign-post. In one direction was peace, in the other direction war. After taking the photographs we put some words with them: "If young people can agree, why can't they?" Finally, we took our poster to the printers... I really enjoyed the week and found it very interesting." (Niel Barnard - Beaumont College)

"The poster produced by the photography workshop was a

statement by a small group of young people about peace. That statement is now in the homes, schools and colleges of the visitors to Beaumont during Sound, Vision, Action week. It has gone abroad to Portugal and Sweden and, who knows, even The Duke of Westminster might have shown it to his friends.

Such a statement may be a drop in the ocean in the world of superpower tension but 'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.'" (Peter Davies - Beaumont staff)

"I made lots of new friends. I really enjoyed myself, we had a laugh. I would go back again, it was really good. It was sad on Friday night at the disco when it was time to leave." (Janet Stenson - Lancasterian School)



OPEN BACK UNISEX SHIRT for DISABLED

Loose style made in the U.K. from cool 100% cotton, it features front shorter for less bulk when sitting down. Front fastening reduced to 2 buttons, then stitched down. Cuff, collar facing, back yoke, pocket facing in white.

Price: £14.00 + 75p for p+p. Delivery: 14/21 days.

Colour	S	M	L	I enclose cheque/P.O. for £..... made payable to Fashion Phenomenon and send to 37 Wilmet House, Daling Way, Bow E3 5NN. 01-980 3509
Pink/white				
Yellow/white				Mr/Mrs/Miss
Lavender/white				
Mint/white				Address:
Grey/white				



"The youth of today don't want bombs or nuclear weapons. We just want peace."

Mary Jones reports on a week of Sound, Vision, Action week.

Seventy-nine people, 29 more than originally planned for, came from the UK, Portugal and Sweden to share a Sound, Vision, Action week on the themes of International Youth Year - peace, participation and development.

The workshops were held at the end of April at Beaumont College, Lancaster, a further education college run by The Spastics Society. Staff from the college's creative studies department were helped by visiting teachers and two professional artists.

The group of young people, which included physically-disabled people and able-bodied students from nearby St Martin's College, explored and generated statements using a wide range of creative media - drama, dance, creative writing, mural painting,

lighting, creative sound, music, ceramics and photography. The workshops allowed them to bridge the frontiers of nationality, language and experience.

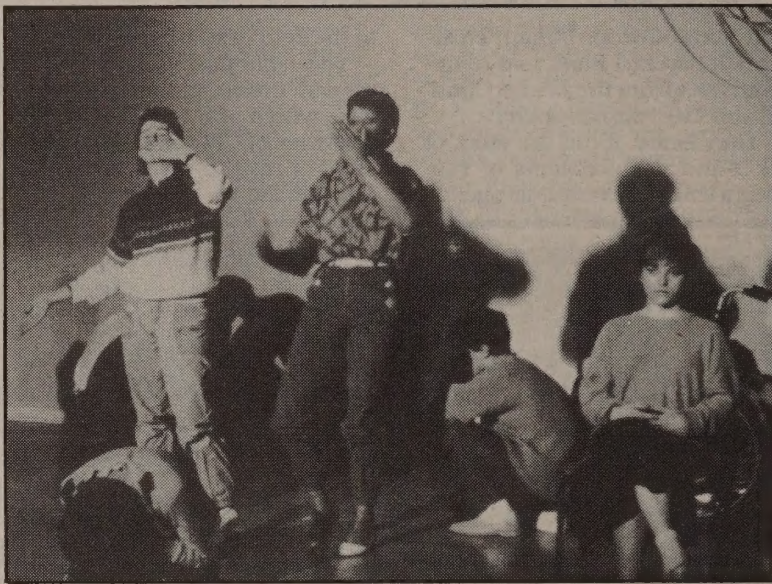
There was also time for the visitors to shop in Lancaster and to visit Blackpool and the Lake District.

On the Friday, there was a final presentation of the week's activities and a lunch attended by the Duke of Westminster, patron of IYY and president of The Spastics Society, the Mayor and Mayoress of Lancaster, Councillor and Mrs Bill Mashitter, Mrs Joyce Smith, John Cox, parents and representatives of art associations in the region.

The week was a great success. There was a tremendous sense of enjoyment and fun and many new friendships were formed.

A striking feature of the week was the quality of the work and the amount that was completed in so short a time. The statements were not only thoughtful and positive; they were fresh and from the heart. Each person related the themes of IYY to themselves.

A video of Beaumont College, including the Sound, Vision, Action week activities, will be available by the end of July. Free copies of the work of the creative writing workshop, "The Beaumont Book of Love and Death and Bits Inbetween", are also available if you send a foolscap envelope and an 18p stamp to Mary Jones, Head of the Creative Studies Department, Beaumont College, Slyne Road, Lancaster LA2 6AP.



Jackie Robson (Beaumont student) and Brenda Prosper (Beaumont staff) blowing kisses in the dance/drama presentation.



Mary Jones reads a poem.

"The message in the drama/dance was that young people wanted to be responsible for their own lives. This expanded into the importance of being recognised as people who had ideas and were prepared to apply themselves and share them.

Understanding the meaning of communication is essential in forming relationships and

understanding people. Attitudes can influence and form pressures which may change people.

These ideas were interpreted in many ways. There was, for example, a "football match" between a boys' team and a girls' team which showed the traditional attitudes to girls and resulted in the boys losing

the match!

Different kinds of unspoken communication were shown, and a boy/girl relationship was explored, from the first tentative meeting, with the social pressures they experience.

This last scene raised questions of strength, belief in yourself and the challenge of living." (Mary Jones - Beaumont staff)



John Cox with Ann Grange, who chose the creative writing workshop.

"If dance is seen as movement that expresses something, then one glance of the eyes can convey more than some dance companies manage in a year.

It's the content, the intent, the relationships between the movements and people moving that count. And by that criteria the mixed group of disabled and non-disabled young people working through dance in IYY week produced work that was sensitive, aware, mature, dynamic; that expressed themselves

in a form which needed no words (a positive bonus with a multi-lingual group)." (Chris Wright - Beaumont staff)

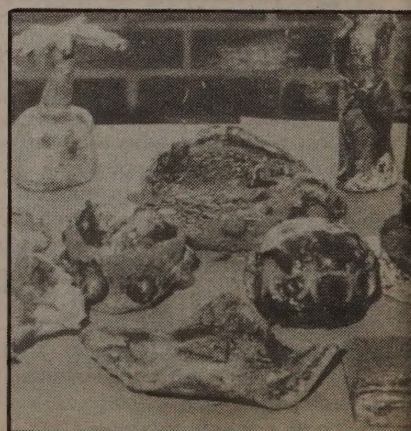
"If anyone was to ask many of the students who took part what they got out of the week they would probably reply - getting to know people, expressing our ideas and meeting people from different countries.

Mine certainly would!" (Joanna Leigh - Delarue School)

The same road

The dark surrenders to the weak. Yet persisting rays of the sun. Simultaneously, people stir from retreating powers of sleep. The air is still, in the newness of the increasing light of day. The hum of a distant engine. Travelling the first of the miles. Across the country, across the sea. Engine hum, people travelling. The same road, same destination. Meeting, confiding, expressing. Ideas, feelings, emotions. Thus speaking as one, one voice. The voice of youth.

Ann Thomas Delarue

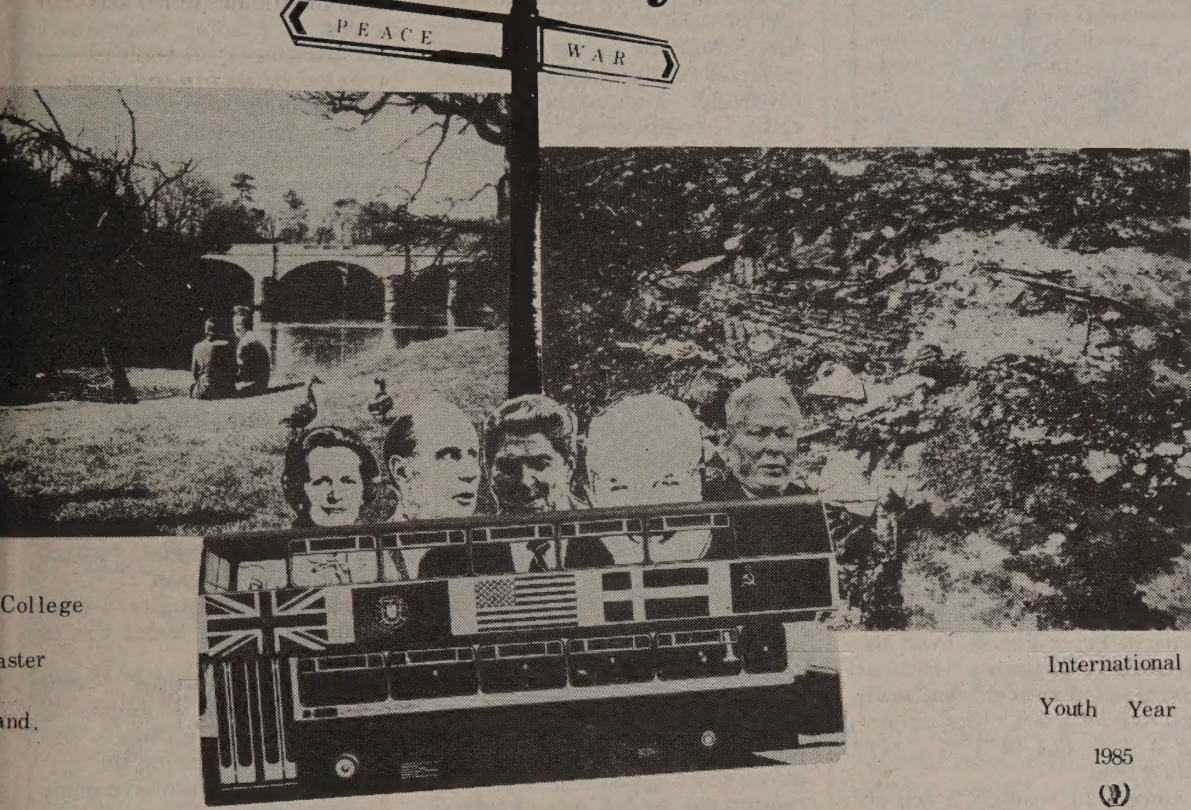


Raku-glazed pots and models.

bombs or nuclear weapons, t peace"

l Action at Beaumont College, Lancaster

young people can agree, why can't they ?



Sound Vision Action Week

igned and executed by the photography workshop.



ma: football match, and the girls won!

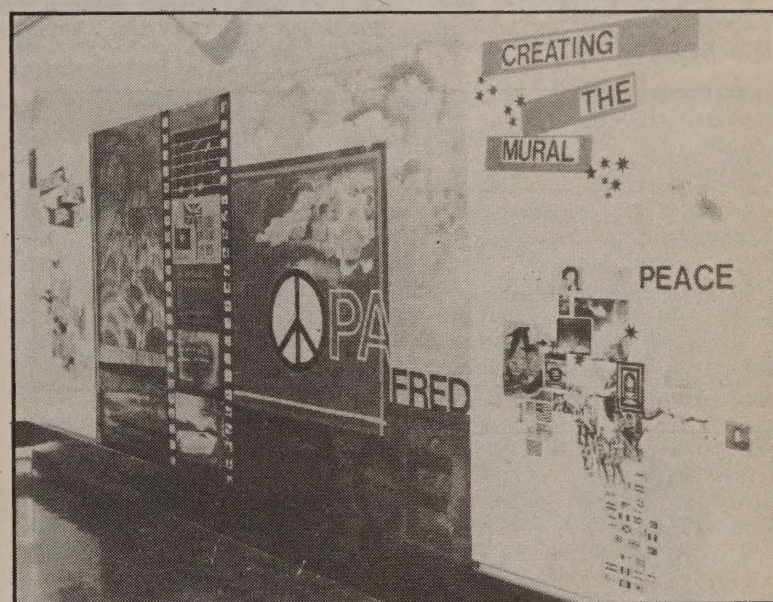
"The group choosing to work on sound took as their theme a very simple idea that came from the work done by the creative writing workshop. 'The world is made of colour and it is that colour that makes the world an interesting place in which to live. Why is it then that people of different races and colours fight? Surely it should be the difference in people that makes life interesting and not lead to hostility.'

The group produced a tape, a sound collage built of synthesized sound, voice and sounds from nature to make a statement about colour - peace and conflict." (Helen Horton - Beaumont Staff)

International
Youth Year
1985
(Q)



Paul Seeds of Beaumont College with his structure "Look up at life". The cube in the centre has photos of people expressing themselves and the different shapes represent the feelings and qualities of a person. The spiky ones are unpleasant: sorrow, anxiety, war. The round ones are pleasant: love, compassion. And the triangular are the qualities needed to be whole: confidence, concentration, organisation.



The mural for peace, communication and friendship is still there.

"Ten people created a mural. From our inter-action sprung visual images of young people enjoying their environment - the sea, the earth and the sky, in which white doves soared for peace. Film strip images and musical notation were thought by everyone to be important as they stressed communication beyond the language barriers. A

detail of Michael Angelo's "Creation of Man" with two outstretched hands reinforced the concept of togetherness and communication. We included the Swedish, Portuguese and British national flags and at the completion ceremony signatures too, while we drank our wine." (Ann Haslam - Beaumont Staff)



Cementing the gaps in the outdoor kiln used for firing Raku pots.

"Raku was traditionally made in Japan for the tea ceremony. The rapid firing technique allows pots to be glazed in a fraction of the normal time. This leads to exciting and unique results.

Using highly "grogged" clay allows the pots to withstand thermal shock, so they can be heated up and fired over about 30 minutes. This is usually

done outside in a small portable kiln.

Once the glaze has matured the pots are removed from the kiln and plunged into a combustible substance such as sawdust. This is the most spectacular part of the firing, as the 'red hot' pot causes the sawdust to burst into flames. After a few minutes the pot is removed from the sawdust and sub-

merged in water. This seals and cools the pot.

Once the pot is cool enough to touch it is scrubbed with wire wool to remove the carbon. This is the moment when all our efforts are rewarded. The burning sawdust has starved the pot of oxygen causing the beautiful colours, lustres and crazing of the glass." (Linda Mangan - Beaumont Staff)



Don't be a prisoner in your own home.

The new 'Lark' from Ortho-Kinetics is a portable 3 wheeler that will end your search for freedom and independence. Its styling,

comfort and durability means you can travel where you want, when you want, without concern, without assistance. Equally useful indoors or outdoors.

THE LARK. Portable 3 Wheeler Freedom from Ortho Kinetics

Break out with the Lark

Please send me the fully illustrated FREE leaflet on the Lark. D.N. 85/6L

Name _____
Address _____

Ortho-Kinetics (UK) Ltd., 190 Commercial Road,
Totter, Southampton. SO4 3ZZ

Get Out and About...



Mansell breaks record at national cp swimming gala

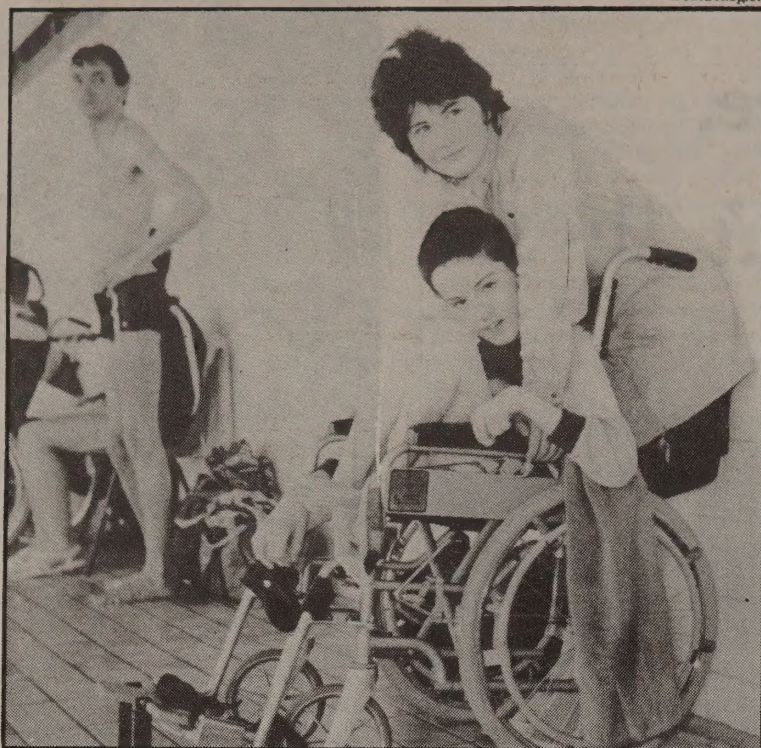
Martin Mansell (Panthers) broke the English record in the Class 5 100m freestyle race at the National Cerebral Palsy Swimming Gala on 11 May. His time was 1 min 11.78 seconds.

The gala, held at the Castle Swimming Pool in Tamworth, Staffordshire, was organised by The Spastics Society. It attracted over 100 swimmers, and with 64 events, this made for a very busy afternoon.

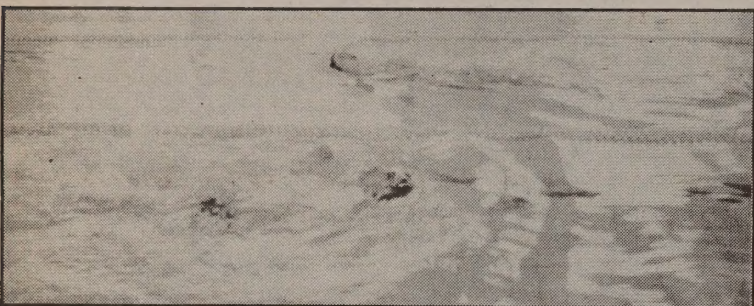
Many events were closely



Martin Mansell, who won the 25m and 50m freestyle and backstroke events, as well as 100m freestyle.



Waiting for the next race, Darren Mannix from Aspley Wood School and his sister Cheryl.



Backstroking competitors cross.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Tamworth talk to competitors from the Grangewood Centre.

How Dene College can help your child become an independent adult...

Do you have an intellectually (and/or physically) disabled child aged sixteen or over?

If so you are probably looking for some sort of post-school provision that will cater for his or her needs in the important period of transition from adolescence to young adulthood.



Since opening in 1978 The Spastics Society's Dene College has been recognised as a pioneer in this field of education. It offers a two year course with a varied and practical curriculum consisting of social and general education, computing and technology, music and drama, art and craft and rural science. Students are encouraged to face "growing up" in five main areas: privacy, sexuality, financial independence, using information, and decision making.

20 new students can be accommodated each year,



and applications are now open for the next college year beginning in September. Preference is given to applications from young people with cerebral palsy, but students with other disabilities will also be considered.

For further information and applications contact:

The College Liaison and Placement Officer
Dene College, Shipbourne Rd,
Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NT.

OUTLOOK

Books

Disability in Modern Children's Fiction

by John Quicke
(Croom Helm, £12.95)

This is a specialist book of interest mainly to teachers, which adopts a technician's approach to an imaginative medium. The use of selected modern literature, which the author evaluates in terms of attitudes and issues involving integration, seems rather engineered and one hopes that teachers will avoid such a restricted approach.

If the book does motivate them to look beyond the restrictions imposed by the title, they will find a range of literature by writers as varied as Frances H. Burnett (*The Secret Garden*), Shakespeare, Margery Williams (*The Velveteen Rabbit*) or Morris West (*The Clowns of God*) as well as many fairy tales and stories from mythology.

On the whole one feels that in the interests of integration this book continues to label disabled people, and in the interests of pleasure and enjoyment of good literature it could be counter-productive for the student.

However, it may well offer a resource for use in a "project" or "package" about disability at junior or secondary level. It requires reading and is not for easy referral, so the full lists of references at the back are useful.

The style of writing and the use of jargon words such as "comprehensivisation" will not appeal overmuch to the student of English literature.

This book is not for a wide range of readers and at a cost of £12.95 it would be more suitable for a library.

Rosemary McCloskey

Employing People in Voluntary Organisations

By Sheila Kurowska
(Bedford Square Press/NCVO 1984, £2.95)

This is an excellent little book. Clear, concise and to the point.

Its purpose, clearly stated in the Introduction is "to provide voluntary groups with a simple practical guide to the main points of the law... (because)... it is vital that groups who are thinking of employing people ensure that they are fully aware of their legal obligations as employers before they appoint staff."

The first chapter, "Before you appoint staff" stresses the importance of asking whether staff are needed and whether the group is prepared to take on the responsibility of an employer. It stresses the need for one member of the management committee to take responsibility for a lone or senior employee's work on a day to day basis, and asks where workers will be based, reminding groups to "always think about the special needs of disabled workers when arranging accommodation."

The chapter also covers insurance and salary scales.

The second chapter, "Appointing Staff," advises on how to write job descriptions, what information to send applicants, how to devise an application form, the appointment timetable, job advertising, shortlisting, references, interviewing, selection, and contacts.

Whilst most of this chapter accords with standard practices, I personally dislike a large selection board and only one

round of interviewing, preferring to interview possible candidates and then shortlist the best of them. Only one interviewer, the line manager, would be common to both interviews. I also think that interviewing needs to be more concerned with the candidate and less pre-planned than the guide suggests.

Once you have chosen your staff, you obviously want to keep them. Chapter 3, "Keeping Staff," covers conditions of employment, induction, managing and supporting staff, health and safety matters, training, disciplinary and grievances procedures and other examples of good employment practice.

I was pleased to see that the guide stresses support and supervision - "management and support go hand in hand" - and that it recognises that members of management committees often need training to help them carry out their role effectively.

I have one grouse with this chapter, though, and that is a glaring omission from the otherwise admirable sentence suggesting that voluntary organisations maintain "a policy to promote equal opportunity at work regardless of a worker's sex, race, marital status, sexual orientation or religion".

What about disability? I trust the authors will correct this in the next edition.

Chapter 4 concerns a vital area that causes problems to many employing groups - dismissing staff. Following the correct procedure could save many voluntary groups from making errors which could prove costly both in human and financial terms.

The last chapter covers "Special sorts of staff," including those on MSC funding, part-time workers and jobsharers, and disabled workers. It stresses that jobs should be made accessible to disabled people by, for example, sending details of jobs to the local disablement resettlement office and to local voluntary organisations.

The book concludes with useful appendices, including a checklist of individual employees' rights, a specimen statement of terms and conditions of service, a list of useful addresses and a list of further reading.

The guide contains a wealth of useful information and I recommend it to all voluntary groups employing staff, or thinking about employing them.

Nigel Smith

Historic Houses, Castles and Gardens, 1985

edited by Sheila Alcock
(British Leisure Publications, £2.50)

The refreshing thing about this new edition is that so many of the pages carry not one but two or three wheelchair signs; a witness, one hopes, to increased concern for the disability market.

Unfortunately, though, the new supplementary section listing properties controlled by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission omits all symbols, so one does not know if they are accessible or not.

Also new this year is a 12-page map section which shows clearly which of the 1,200 houses, castles, gardens and monuments are within striking distance. Each property is cross referenced to a map and gives information about open times, admission charges, facilities and attractions.

A useful guide for those who enjoy design and like to potter round other people's lives.

Mary Wilkinson

OUTLOOK

Theatre

Richard III

The best-known feature of Shakespeare's *Richard III* is his hump and it plays a significant part in Anthony Sher's stunning portrayal at the Barbican, London. It is grotesquely exposed at the coronation when, his back to the audience, his robes are loosened for his anointing. He meets his death when Henry plunges a sword into his hump.

Despite his deformity, Richard seems quite capable of capering nimbly. He is extremely agile, using his crutches as extra limbs, reinforcing the animal imagery of the play by becoming in turns a scurrying "bottled spider", a

squatting "hunch-backed toad" or slaving like a "dog". His crutches are used as weapons, to form a cross, to trap people, to probe and prod.

Only once is his disability seen as disabling, when without his crutches he crawls to the throne at the coronation, a vivid illustration of the dubious path he has taken to gain the crown.

Only once do we see his disability as a possible source of pity, when his younger nephew, the Duke of York, parodies his stooping, crooked walk. Any pity is hushed by the awesome silence which follows and the black look on Richard's face heralds the boy's death.

Sher's energetic interpretation relies as much on vocal as physical dexterity. The famous opening soliloquy is muted, gentle and confidential until he spits out the last syllable of "lascivious pleasing of a lute" and we realise he means business. The brisk ex-

change of verbal blows when persuading Elizabeth (Penelope Beaumont) to win her daughter on his behalf is masterly in tone and timing. His off-stage wait for a horse is unforgettable.

Sher himself believes that Richard's behaviour, given the circumstances, is "absolutely normal". He is certainly frighteningly plausible.

Richard's character dominates the play, but in this production by the Royal Shakespeare Company the rest of the cast is not eclipsed by him. The women in particular, Elizabeth, Lady Anne (Penny Downie), Queen Margaret (Patricia Routledge) and the Duchess of York (Yvonne Coulette) are equal in their curses and lamentations to Richard's actions.

Richard III is a nasty piece of work, but an enjoyable piece given the premise of deformity as a metaphor of evil. It is a premise which the RSC has exploited to the full.

Helen Gray

Richard III is on until the end of September and possibly longer. Barbican Box Office, Tel: 01-628 8795/01-638 8891. There is seating for disabled people.



Anthony Sher as Richard III.

Motoring

Car of the year – the Vauxhall Astra

Back in May 1982 I tested the Automatic Vauxhall Astra and found it a very reliable car for disabled people.

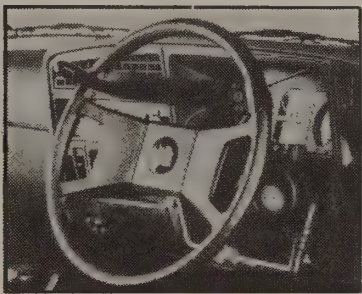
The new model Vauxhall/Opel Astra, just announced Car of the Year 1985, is an obvious progression.

Outside, the differences are very striking. Gone is the old cow-catcher style front. Instead there are gently curving lines and a solid wrap-around bumper capable of taking those car park knocks without damage. The back has also been redesigned with a tailgate which opens easily, giving access to a low level load area that is ideal for loading wheelchairs.

Inside there is still plenty of leg room. All the controls have been ergonomically designed which makes it ideal for the disabled driver since no control is more than an arm's length away and most are at your finger tips.

The C.L. model I tested also had an adjustable steering column. The lowest of five positions would be very good for somebody with an upper body disability as it enables you to get on top of the steering wheel and get maximum leverage. This could save the cost of power steering, especially as the Astra has particularly light steering for a front-wheel-drive car.

As in the previous model, the performance from the 1300s engine and three-speed automatic gearbox is spectacular. Improvements in both aerodynamics and sound proofing give a very quiet ride at 70 mph so you can make the most of a very nice radio cassette player, which is fitted as standard in this model.



The Astra steering column with Autability conversion.

The gear changes are almost undetectable and the car always seemed to be in the right gear even in the cut and thrust of London traffic. Hydraulic tappets and electronic ignition should make for a long engine life.

Buying a car that has been around for some time and is popular has one big advantage: adaptations for the disabled driver are reasonably priced. Autability Ltd, the leading supplier of the Astra offers a whole range of conversions, from a simple steering wheel knob to a very complicated electronic device for loading an Everest & Jennings wheelchair on to the driver's door.

Technical Information

Engine 1300S (or 1600S, not tested) with a 3 speed automatic gearbox. Length 157.4in. Width 65.5ins.

Fuel consumption

Urban driving	30.9 mpg
56mph	45.3 mpg
70 mph	36.7mpg

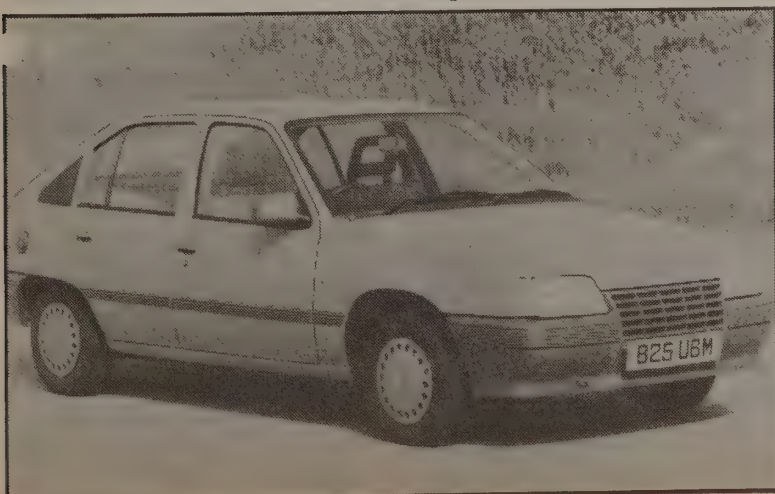
Price

Difficult to quote one at this time of year as there are many discount packages available. Try your local dealer. Resale value should be good as this is a new model.

Purchase can be arranged through all the normal schemes for disabled people, including Motorability and A.I.D.

John Byworth

Information on cars and conversions from Autability Ltd, FREEPOST, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE12 813R, tel: (0632) 586556. Autability agents all over Britain can provide a package of car purchase and adaptations.



The Vauxhall Astra L Hatchback.

Fighting chance

Set in a residential rehabilitation centre for neurological patients, *Fighting Chance* draws on the actual experiences of its author, N. J. Crisp.

In 1975 after operations to correct a disabling spinal chord condition, Crisp spent some time in a rehabilitation centre, where his fellow patients' "courage and determination in adversity" impressed him profoundly.

This strong factual basis, supported by detailed research, gives the play considerable authenticity. At times, particularly in the first half, the effect is so strong that one has the impression of watching a documentary rather than a play. At such moments the television background of the playwright becomes only too evident in small-scale and static scenes.

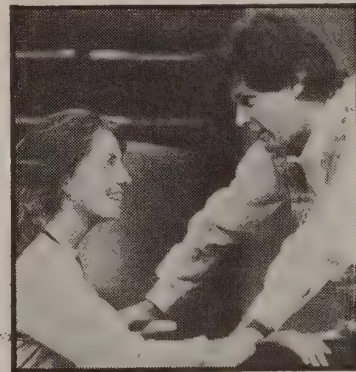
Having said this, however, the second half of the play is compulsive viewing.

The characters at the centre – "a cross between Butlins and Belsen" – come vividly to life: Len (Victor Maddern), who after falling carelessly from a crane is destined for the all-too-familiar

lot of "the elderly and infirm" – meals on wheels, day centres, "vegetating quietly out of sight"; Douglas (Lewis Jones) who refuses to be disabled – as for him disability means he will never again be able to drive his beloved Mercedes; Terry, the resident insensitive comic who ultimately seems the saddest character of all as he alone has to continue at the centre when the play ends.

At the hub of it all are the two main characters, Philip (Simon Williams) and Kathy (Elizabeth Quinn, of *Children of a Lesser God* fame). Together they struggle to come to terms with their disabilities and the limitations these will impose upon their chosen careers – he a roving

Frank Page



Elizabeth Quinn and Simon Williams in *Fighting Chance*.

journalist, she a teacher.

The acting is uniformly good, though Miss Quinn – who is deaf – must receive special mention for her splendid performance in her first speaking role.

Though the play does not say anything startlingly new about disability, it tackles its subject in an admirably realistic and unsentimental manner. The main characters, who initially view disability as an appalling stigma, come by the end to accept that they are disabled, and in doing so voice the frustrations experienced daily by disabled people: "What do they think we are – a different species?" "Them" and "us" have become intriguingly reversed.

Perhaps the most important point about this production is that due to having so many talented and respected artists it is almost certain to have large audiences and, eventually, a West End run. It will be interesting to see what effect such an uncomfortable subject will have upon a notoriously comfortable audience.

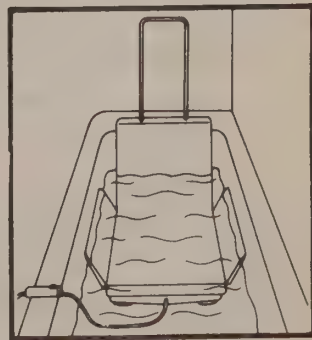
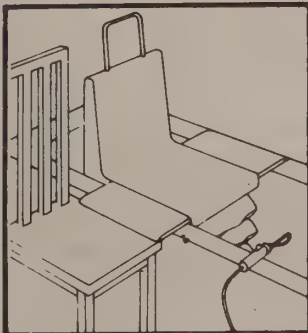
Alan Durant

Fighting Chance will visit Reading, Brighton, Croydon, Leeds and Bath. For more information contact the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead. Tel: (0372) 377677.

RELAX AND ENJOY THE PORTABLE MANGAR BATHLIFT

Powered by Pure Air Pressure

- SAFE
- EASY TO USE
- SELF-OPERATED
- NO LIFTING
- FITS IN ANY CAR



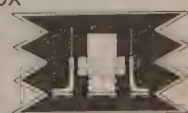
NO EXTRA SPACE REQUIRED. IDEAL FOR THE DISABLED AT HOME

I WOULD LIKE A MANGAR BROCHURE
I WOULD LIKE A FREE DEMONSTRATION WITHOUT OBLIGATION

☐ TICK BOX
☐

NAME:

ADDRESS:



MANGAR AIDS
Presteigne Industrial Estate,
Presteigne, Powys.
Tel. 0544 267 674



A small price to pay for independence

Janet Ciddor offers advice on alarm systems

Everyone has access to help in an emergency - just get to a phone and dial 999. But sometimes a person who is otherwise independent may become incapable of reaching and using the phone. She may fall over or become unwell, or her aids to living may fail leaving her stuck in the bath or in a powered wheelchair which won't move.

A number of devices have been developed to enable people to call for help. They vary greatly in price from £20 for a hand held bleeper to over £300 plus an annual rental fee for a remote control system with auto-dialler.

How can such an expenditure be justified?

Quite simply, it could mean the difference between living alone and living with carers.

In normal circumstances, the carer need only be there to provide such help as cooking a meal or transferring someone from bed to wheelchair. The alarm will take care of the "what if?" situations. The care network will be permanently on call rather than always there "just in case".

This arrangement is good for both sides. If the disabled person is sure that help is available and can be summoned easily, then she may be prepared to try living on her own. The people in the care network know they can be reached if needed and will not have to make constant checks on the disabled person's well being; they may get more time to themselves or for other duties.

An alarm, then, may be the difference between a person remaining at home in the community, or moving into sheltered housing or residential care.

When choosing an alarm system, consider these points:

1 Does the user accept the need for an alarm and will she use it?

It has been known for people not to use a system, even when the occasion warranted it, because they didn't want to inconvenience their friends or relatives.

2 Can the user activate the alarm?

Look at the user's mobility and hand function, both in everyday circumstances and in the event of an emergency. Someone

with good mobility may be able to reach, say, a pull cord fixed to the ceiling. While someone with more limited mobility - perhaps only temporarily if her wheelchair breaks down - may need to carry a remote control device on her person, like a watch or a pendant, or attached to her wheelchair. Look at hand function to see whether she can grasp and tug a pull cord, or would manage better with a press-button alarm.

3 Who is available to answer the call?

The alarm will only be effective if there is someone to hear it and take appropriate action.

A hand-held buzzer will be heard by someone in the same house. A bell or flashing light placed in a nearby house will call the neighbour for assistance - if they are there. A radiopager can contact carers wherever they are. An autodialler will call pre-selected people, eg friends and relatives, trying each number till one answers. The final number is a permanently available service such as the ambulance.

DAVIS GARAGES OF SEVENOAKS, KENT FOR WELFARE AMBULANCES



16 SEAT/5 WHEELCHAIR WELFARE AMBULANCE ON RENAULT MASTER 2 litre.



12 SEAT/3 to 4 WHEELCHAIR VERSION ON THE NEW RENAULT TRAFIC 1650 c.c.

BOTH UNITS HAVE

- 2 FOLD EASY RAMP.
- REMOVABLE SEATS.
- FULLY LINED INTERIORS.
- UNWIN CLAMPS AND RECESSED FIXINGS.
- STEPS TO SIDE ENTRANCES.
- ADEQUATE GRAB RAILS.

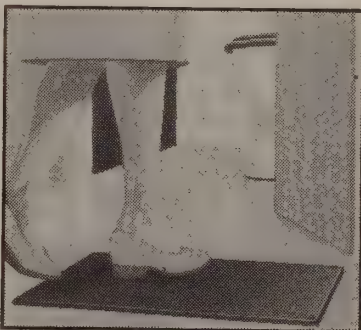
**PLUS
LUGGAGE RACK OPTIONS**

**VAT ZERO RATED for CHARITIES
CAR TAX AND ROAD FUND LICENCE
EXEMPTIONS**

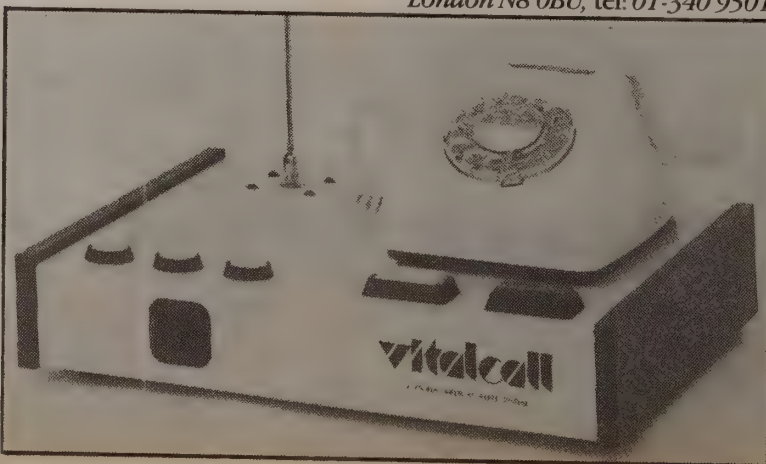
For Details of price which is inclusive of conversion costs and delivery to your address:

**CONTACT JIM DAVIS
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DAVIS GARAGES
SEVENOAKS, KENT (0732) 455174**

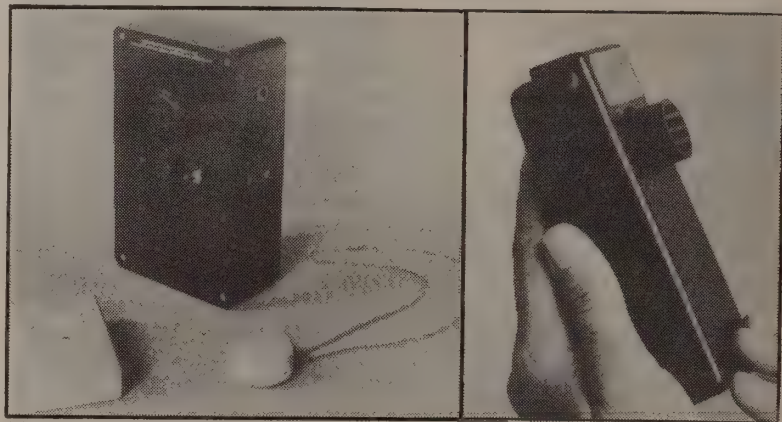
Tunstall Telecom's Piper Solo alarm system (above, left) automatically dials a 24-hour control centre which arranges emergency help. By pressing the button on the Piper pendant, you will be connected to the centre and if you cannot speak yourself, a coded message will supply your identity. Using information previously supplied, the centre will summon help. £230 (excluding service) plus a weekly rental. Last month, Piper Lifeline was added. Pressing the pendant button can switch on a telephone so that you can have a conversation with the control centre. £290 (excluding service). Tunstall Telecom Ltd, Whitley Lodge, Whitley Bridge, Yorkshire DN14 0HR, tel: (0977) 661234.



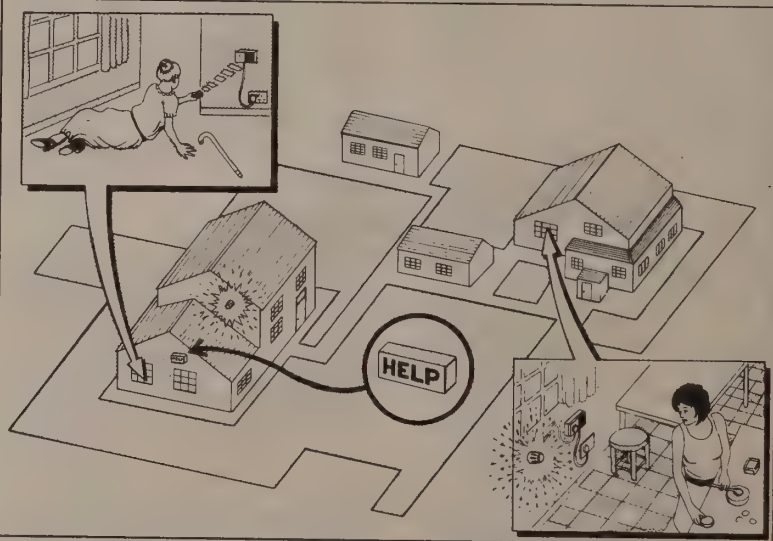
The Ericare Passive Alarm is one of a range of alarm systems from Cass Electronics. It is a habit/cycle alarm which operates when a normally repeated event, like going to the loo, doesn't happen within a given time. In the Ericare system the electronic timer is connected to an alarm mat and timed for 12 hours, after which the alarm is transmitted to the care centre. If you step on the mat, the timer is re-started. £400, assuming there's a scheme. Cass Electronics Ltd, Crabtree Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8RN, tel: (0784) 36266.



Vitalcall (left) can automatically dial a number when you press the button on your pendant. It dials 3 numbers in turn and delivers a tape-recorded message. If there is no response, it automatically alerts a 24-hour local control centre. Vitalcall can also act as a habit/cycle alarm: it buzzes once a day and if the user does not acknowledge the call, Vitalcall contacts the control centre. £195 plus £35 quarterly for monitoring and replacement. Vital Communications (UK) Ltd, 259 City Road, London EC1V 1JE, tel: 01-251 1616.



The Radio Portalarm (above, left) can call from house to garden, granny flat to house, or house to neighbour's house. The hand-held transmitter is operated by a push-button or a tilt switch, or there is a pendant. It activates a small, black box receiver which starts bleeping. The receiver can be carried around with the carer. £160-£175. The portable lightweight bleeper (above, right) with switch and alarm built-in can attract the attention of anyone within earshot. It has a big, easily-operated switch and can be carried with you attached to clothing or the wheelchair. £20. Quest Education Designs Ltd, 1 Prince Alfred Street, Gosport, Hants PO12 1QH, tel: (0705) 581179.



Bells and buzzers, and lights at the front of the house or at a neighbour's, only help if there is someone around to act. Ridley Electronics makes the Switch-A-Switch distress alarm. You raise the alarm by pressing the button while pointing the transmitter in a direct line with the alarm receiver on the wall. There is a choice of controls. £380-£430 for a 4-room flat. Ridley Electronics Ltd, 206 Wightman Road, Hornsey, London N8 0BU, tel: 01-340 9501.

A Princess, a Duchess and a new home for ten adults

Princess Alexandra came to a sun-drenched Worthing to open Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society's new sheltered living centre on 26 April.

It turned out to be quite a family occasion - Princess Alexandra's Lady in Waiting was the daughter of the President of the Worthing group, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, after whom the centre is named.

The Princess, wearing a dark red coat dress with elephant grey hat, gloves and shoes, cut a silk ribbon to officially open Lavinia Norfolk House, visited the nine residents in their own rooms, met all the staff, unveiled a commemorative plaque in the

hall and planted a flowering cherry tree in the garden.

It was five years ago that Dorothy Till, then Chairman of the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society, first convinced her committee that there was a need for sheltered accommodation in West Sussex for disabled adults whose parents were getting older, and that the society, already supporting the Fitzalan Howard Centre and welfare work, could cope with raising the money.

The Stonham and District Housing Association agreed to locate and convert a suitable property and in November 1982 Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, launched the appeal.

David Nicholls



Princess Alexandra (right) stands outside the house with Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk (centre) and Dorothy Till, Appeals Officer for the Worthing group.

Two years later, the conversion of the house into 10 small flatlets with communal lounge and dining facilities was complete and the residents moving in. A total of £130,000 has now been raised.

"The Duchess was very involved with the fundraising and wrote personally to everyone who donated money," says Dorothy Till, who accompanied the Princess and Duchess at the opening.

"As soon as I introduced the Princess to someone, the Duchess could tell her how much they'd raised and how they'd done it. It was a joint effort."

Among the guests who were introduced to Princess Alexandra were Councillor and Mrs Clare, the Mayor and Mayoress of Worthing and Councillor Elliott, Vice-President of the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society.

Several young people were involved in the proceedings. As the guests ate their lunch on the lawn, a string quartet from the local college of music played in the marquee.

Ten students from the Worthing College of Technology came to do the catering.

"The Princess was very interested to meet them," says Dorothy Till. "She spoke to all of them, and then when they went back to the new garage to get some more food prepared, she followed them in to see what they were doing. I think they were a bit surprised."

She also met a girl guide and a scout who had raised £1,000 in a

Beth Moss



Ellen Hoskisson presents a flower to the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man.

Spastics Society, outlined the challenge for The Society in the eighties and the necessity of responding to changing needs and legislation.

Chris Gathercole outlined the positive contribution to be made by mentally handicapped people.

Jim Hoskisson, Chairman of the Isle of Man Spastics Society which was formed in March 1984, was delighted with the seminar.

"We feel the day has been a resounding success and are very grateful to the speakers for making the journey and giving up their time," he says.

"The only disappointment was the poor turnout of MHKs (Members of the House of Keys - the governing body of the Island). We know that they care, but we fear that disability issues still have low priority."

At present there is no residential care for disabled people on the Island and no social services department.

There are also no social workers apart from those attached to the geriatric and mental hospitals. The Spastics Society will be appointing a social worker for people with disabilities on the Island in a two year project with the Isle of Man Board of Education.



John Cox sits with Ellen Hoskisson. Parents Vivien and Jim Hoskisson, Secretary and Chairman of the Isle of Man Spastics Society, stand behind.

Independence means the right to choose

Lynne Smith, Senior Regional Officer for the North West Region of The Spastics Society, reports on a seminar on the Isle of Man

The newly-formed Isle of Man Spastics Society attracted 120 people to its first major undertaking on 20 April - a seminar on independent living.

Opened by the Lieutenant Governor of the Island, Sir Nigel Cecil, and held at the Villa Marina, Douglas, the aim was to bring together groups and individuals to examine and discuss ideas for a range of living options for people with all disabilities on the island.

Delegates included parents, disabled adults, nurses, teachers and representatives from the Southport, Blackburn, Urmston and Barrow groups.

One thing was very clear: there is no "blueprint" for a perfect solution; disabled people are people *first* who just happen to have a disability. Each has his own ideas, just like anyone else, of how he would like to live. The solution might be to provide families with more support at home to enable them to cope, or part or full-time "carers" to allow an individual to make his or her own life without depending on relatives.

One of the speakers was Harold Sharpe who has athetoid cerebral palsy. Once told he would never walk, talk or work, he has held a full-time job for ten years, drives his own car and lives completely independently in an ordinary flat. Harold emphasised the disabled person's duty to speak up and to have the courage to take responsibility.

June Maelzer, another of the speakers, lives with her nine-year-old son supported by full-time carers. She is severely dis-

abled and confined to a wheelchair. Only after years of fighting with authorities did she achieve independence in the community. She now lives in a minimally adapted council house.

She has a degree in psychology and a post-graduate diploma in youth and community work; is an Open University tutor and works full-time as a training officer with Manchester City Council.

Neil Slatter, tetraplegic from the age of 19, has part-time care support paid through the DHSS Domestic Care Allowance. Like Harold and June, he stressed that independence doesn't mean being able to do everything for yourself, but having the ability to exercise control over your life.

John Cox, Director of The

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Edited by Simon Crompton



An animated Princess talks with some of the guests.

Day-care debate in Weston

Officials from the Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped have criticised the lack of facilities for mentally handicapped people discharged into the community from nearby hospitals.

"They are coming from an environment where everything is provided for them to the general community which is completely different, especially if there aren't the back-up facilities," says Ron Goodman, Chairman of the Group.

"If they're walking the streets of Weston with nothing to do, it's very easy to get in with the wrong people, and get involved with alcohol, drugs and so on."

He has written to the Social Services Department, the Health Authority and MPs about the lack of day care facilities.

Around 50 people have been discharged from neighbouring Farleigh Hospital and Yatton Hall in the last 18 months.

Dr Karl Sinclair, Vice-President of the Group, first drew attention to the problem in the *Weston Mercury* on 5 April. The William Knowles Centre, the only day care centre in the

whole of Woodspring, already deals with 30 more people than it should, he said.

Vincent Harral, District Administrator for Bristol and District Health Authority, acknowledges it is a "possibility" that people are moved out of hospitals before there are adequate facilities for them in the community, but has seen no evidence of ex-patients wandering the streets.

"We've had specific reassurances of this from the staff of Yatton Hall and Farleigh Hospital who have been monitoring them," he says.

He thinks patients from outside the Bristol and District Health Authority may have come to Weston. "We're satisfied with the position as far as our own patients are concerned," he says.

The Authority, however, has recently approved a plan giving Social Services over £39,000 to make three appointments to organise day care services in Weston.

But for Ron Goodman it will all come too late. "It's quite obvious that all this should have happened before the patients were discharged," he says.

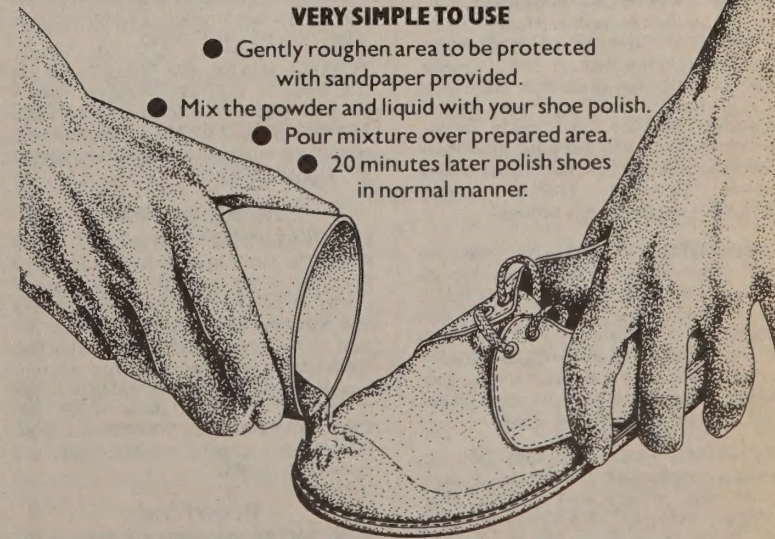
A tough quick setting plastic material for protecting the toe-caps and sides of leather shoes against premature wear.

SHOE-GUARD PLASTIC

Our kit contains all the materials you need for approximately 20-25 applications. All you add is liquid shoe polish to match the shoes being protected.

VERY SIMPLE TO USE

- Gently roughen area to be protected with sandpaper provided.
- Mix the powder and liquid with your shoe polish.
- Pour mixture over prepared area.
- 20 minutes later polish shoes in normal manner.



1 kit £15.35 including packing, carriage & V.A.T.
2 or more kits £11.90 each including packing, carriage & V.A.T.

Start protecting your expensive shoes now by sending a cheque or P.O. to:-

AUSTENAL LTD.

4 CRYSTAL WAY, HARROW, MIDDLESEX HA1 2HG

Used for over 15 years following development in co-operation with the Spastics Society.

Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

People with learning difficulties have spiritual needs too

I have received two letters which raise a very important and, until recently, generally neglected area in the lives of people with mental handicaps. I have drawn up a list of references and literature for these correspondents which I will be glad to send to any other readers.

I wonder if you can advise me about suitable books or teaching materials to help people with learning difficulties to grow in their Christian life?

We have several worshippers in our congregation who would not be able to read or understand books which we would suggest to other young Christians and we are keen to find a way to communicate with these special people on a more spiritual level.

★★★

I am writing to you in a dual role, as secretary of a newly formed house committee for a small home for mentally and physically handicapped adults, and as churchwarden of the Parish in which the home is situated.

We have five residents, some of them profoundly handicapped, and we would welcome advice as to how we can make them feel at home and part of the community. Some come to us from hospitals and some from their own homes.

As churchwarden I am anxious to know whether you feel it will be possible to integrate those who are interested in our church life. In spite of severe handicap do you think we can help them to understand and grow in the Christian faith? Our Church would like to help the staff and residents of the

Home, but in ways which are possible for our members. You will appreciate that the majority of the latter will have had no experience of the handicapped. Any day-time visiting would most likely be by retired people.

How do you think we can help? And do you consider the less handicapped could be welcomed to our Church services and weekday activities?

Thank you both for writing to me about the spiritual and personal needs of people with learning difficulties.

The Churches do seem to have been rather slow to respond to the needs of disabled people, and especially of those with mental handicaps. With the Roman Catholic Church well in the lead, the Anglican and Free Churches are all now developing ways in which they can help integrate the thousands of disabled people who are moving out of the large institutions. This also means looking more constructively at ways in which these men and women can be enabled to develop their own personal faith and to become fully participating members of their local Church.

As Father David Wilson, the mainspring of the work in this field, says in an article in the Spring issue of *Religious Education Today*, "Much has been going on in the last 20 years but, because of the reluctance of those in the field to record and publish - however simply - the fruits of their labours, progress has been slowed down."

There is, however, increasing encouragement to teachers, church workers, personal catechists and counsellors to record what they are doing.

Turning to the more practical help that church members can give those who are moving out of the large institutions: often relatives and staff, and sometimes the handicapped people themselves, will be able to talk over with you the type of assistance they would appreciate. Most people with mental handicaps, like others, want a special friend of their own whom they can visit and go out with.

For some, joining in Church



Simon Crompton

services and activities with their special friend will be very welcome, while for others this would not be appropriate.

As far as retired men and women are concerned, I am sure there will be many ways in which they can help - quite apart from the inevitable fundraising coffee mornings! Many handicapped adults have been used to living with elderly parents and it may, in fact, be an older companion whom they miss most of all when they move into a group home.

Many of us are, understandably, apprehensive about how we will manage to communicate with someone who is severely handicapped. Sister Ruth Reed of the Church Army is working on a special project in Liverpool, seeking to develop forms of ministry which are relevant to the needs of people with mental handicaps.

One of her activities has been to run a Resource Day to help local people to understand more about mental handicap. She has found that practical sessions can break down fears and clear up many misunderstandings. Social get-togethers also reduce the initial embarrassment and make personal relationships easier.

I am convinced that there are many exciting ways in which believing people can support and encourage those who find it difficult to learn or to worship in the ways that have been traditional to us.

We will, however, need imagination and minds which are open to the simplicity, love and very real faith of many children and adults with special needs. Father David Wilson, Director, Pastoral Office for Handicapped People, St Joseph's Centre, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. Tel: 01-202 3999. Sister Ruth Reed, The Crossroads Centre, St Cyprian's Church, Edge Lane, Edge Hill, Liverpool 7.

and grounds. Large games room to accommodate wheelchairs. A warm welcome assured. Monk Soham Hall, Woodbridge. Tel: (072882) 358

HOLIDAY CARAVAN AT FELIXSTOWE. Sleeps eight with wheelchair access. Still has vacancies in June, July, September and October. For full details contact Miss J M Wood, 50 High Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9PU. Tel: (0394) 283794.

VARCOE HOUSE HOLIDAY FLATS. Two self-catering, well equipped flats, adapted for the disabled, each to sleep up to six. Level access to flats and nearby sandy beach at Par, Nr St Austell. A few seasonal vacancies still available or take a break in the off season at reduced prices. Staff and families also welcome. Details from Mr L E Elliott, c/o Trebrowbridge Farm, Nr Liskeard, Cornwall. Tel: (05034) 271.

ASHLEY MOBILITY HAND CONTROL CAR CONVERSION SPECIALISTS

DHSS Approved Hand Control Contractors. Also Approved by Austin-Rover, Ford, Vauxhall, etc., and on 'Motability' List.

Kits supplied for all popular automatic models for fitting by Main Dealers.

Advice and Assessments. Demonstration Metro available.

Send for Kit Price List and Brochure to:

ASHLEY MOBILITY, FREEPOST, BIRMINGHAM, B25 8HY.
Tel: 021-772 5364.

What's On

Courses at Castle Priory

Blissymbolics Communication System - an introductory course concerned with communication for children or adults with severe communication disorders. 19-23 July. Tuition £106 (including materials), residence £74.

Care and Education of Young Children with Severe Learning Problems - especially designed for pre-school counsellors, teachers of nursery and infant age children and health visitors, but other disciplines welcome. 23-26 July. Tuition £50, residence £55.50.

Creative Crafts - a workshop for staff working with people with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities. Techniques will include hardcrafts, softcrafts, printing and photography. 19-23 August. Tuition £66 (including materials), residence £74.

Children with Special Needs - a vacation course for houseparents, classroom or welfare assistants working with children who have mental or physical disabilities in special or ordinary schools. 27-30 August. Tuition £50, residence £55.50.

Margaret Morris Movement - a practical programme introducing this unique system used for improving the health and motor co-ordination of children with all kinds of learning disorders. 30 August-1 September. Tuition £43, residence £37.

For more information about any of these courses write to Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxford OX10 1HE. Tel: 0491 37551

Conferences and Leisure

The National Boccia Weekend (planned for 8-9 June and mentioned in January's *Disability Now*) has been cancelled due to difficulties in finding Boccia balls at a reasonable cost and quality. New dates for the event will be fixed as soon as this problem is solved.

The Mobility Road Show, a motor show for disabled people first held in 1983, will be held again this year on 13, 14 and 15 June at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire. There will be a wide range of adapted cars to see and test drive; vans, outdoor powered wheelchairs and other mobility aids. Contact The Department of Transport, Room S13/11, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1. Tel: 01-212 5257.

A Grand Spectacular to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Association is being held on 15 June in the grounds of Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea. There will be music from Services bands, a parachute drop and other displays and stalls. Fully accessible. Open from 12 noon until 6 pm. Price, £1 adults, 50p children and pensioners.

The Second European Congress of Occupational Therapists will take place in London on 2-5 July. The 4 main themes will be "New developments in the clinical field", "Occupational therapy in the community", "Organisation of occupational therapy services" and "Educational developments before and after qualification". Further information from Conference Services Ltd, 3-5 Bute Street, London SW7 3EY.

A Charity Festival in aid of the Friends of Enfield Work Centre will be held at Durants Park, Hertford Road, Enfield from 4-7 July. There will be over 50 stalls and a variety of displays on Saturday and Sunday and a fun fair on all 4 days. Admission 20p. For more information contact Enfield Work Centre, 301 Alma Road, Enfield, Middx. Tel: 01-805 3715/6077.

Integration in Education - the way forward is a day conference organised by the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education on Saturday 6 July at Regent's College, London. The fee is £5 and the programme and application form are available from CSIE, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Tel: 01-387 9571.

The 30th Anniversary Reunion at Thomas Delarue School will take place on 13 July. There will be an open day, a garden party, the school play, a dance and a late supper. Tickets cost £2 per head and are available from Thomas Delarue School, Starvecrow, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NP. Tel: (0732) 354 584.

International Congress on Special Education: Progress and Practice is being held at Nottingham University on 16-19 July and will cover the special educational needs associated with physical, sensory, social, emotional and intellectual handicaps. Dame Mary Warnock will chair the opening sessions. Further details from D Hutchinson, North Nottinghamshire College of Further Education, Carlton Road, Worksop S81 7HP. Tel: (0909) 473561.

The Annual Youth Conference of the National Association of Youth Clubs is being held at Manchester University on 19-21 July. A special emphasis has been placed on booking adequate facilities so disabled young people can take part. The NAYC is particularly keen to encourage disabled young people to join able-bodied clubs. For further information contact NAYC, Keswick House, 30 Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5NY. Tel: (0533) 29514.

A Fun-Run to raise funds for The Spastics Society is taking place on 28 July at Mote Park, Maidstone. Able-bodied and disabled entrants welcome, with wheelchair pushers available if needed. For information contact Bill Bruty, 113 High Street, Chatham, Kent. Tel: (0634) 409086.

The International Congress on Education of the Deaf is being held in Manchester on 5-10 August. For information contact International House, 36 Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1LB.

Expo '85 is an exhibition of equipment and methods of care for professionals, disabled people and other interested groups at the new Bournemouth International Centre on 10-12 September. It is part of a

Living with Disability Week which aims to reduce man-made barriers between "normality" and handicap and includes a series of discussion groups, an exhibition of work by disabled artists and displays by organisations concerned with disability. Further information from Living with Disability, Expo '85, The Firs, Trinity Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 1QJ. Tel: (0202) 295777/8.

CLASSIFIED

For sale

BURNHAM ON SEA - SOMERSET. A detached modern bungalow situated on the outskirts of a delightful bungalow development in Burnham on Sea, Somerset. This property has been fully converted and is ideal for disabled persons. The alterations include extra wide sliding doors, hoists, ramps and a fully fitted low level spacious kitchen. For further details phone Caterham (0883) 43777. £54,800 (inc fixtures & fittings).

DETACHED BUNGALOW, London SE27. Specifically adapted for wheelchairs. Gas CH. Large living/dining area, 2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (adapted shower unit & handrails), kitchen with low-level hob, sink and surfaces. Laundry room. Ramp to 2 secluded garden areas. Double garage with automatic door. £57,500 ono. Tel: 01-761 2161.

2 "AMIGOS" in excellent condition. Recently overhauled and serviced. Armrests, dual wheels and baskets. Telephone (0883) 43777. £800 o.n.o.

"ADJUSTAMATIC" double bed as new. Telephone (0883) 43777. £800 o.n.o.

MINI 1000. Dark green. Covered by Gowrings to carry wheelchair. 37,000 miles. New sills. MOT Jan 1986. VGC. £1,200. Tel: (0353) 4602

DUDLEY EXTRA PLUS WHEELCHAIR. Battery operated with charger. Padded and a hard cushion, plus a waterproof mac. Size: standard, seat width 16 in.,

width wheel to wheel 24 in., height 36 in. Folds. Standard door clearance 6 in. Incorporates kerb roller. £1,400 or near offer. Tel: (044 46) 44840.

TOYOTA HIACE with Ratcliffe lift on side door. 'L' reg. 68,000 miles. Seats 5 people plus wheelchair. **WANTED: ECONOMICAL VEHICLE** for use of person sitting in a wheelchair during transit. Tel: (0482) 278559.

Situations vacant

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST FOR CYPRUS. The Christos Steliou Ioannou Foundation for mentally handicapped adults is in need of the services of a volunteer occupational therapist for the period October 1985-June 1986. The Foundation will provide free accommodation and food plus £50 Stg p.m. Applications with C.V. must reach the Director at P.O. Box 590 Nicosia, (Tel: 02 481666) Cyprus not later than the end of July, 1985.

Penfriends

PENFRIEND WANTED by cp male living in Hampshire, aged 43. Interests include modern and vintage firefighting vehicles and historic commercial vehicles. Please write to Box No. 120, *Disability Now*, address on page 16.

Holidays

SUFFOLK. Enjoy staying in our listed Tudor home. Ground-floor bedroom with en suite bathroom for those with special needs. Beautiful views of ponds

PEOPLE

Simon Crompton



Richard Redmond will take up post as Deputy to the Director of the Social Services Division and Residential Services Manager on 17 June.

He will be responsible for operational and line management and for developing joint planning with local authorities

Andrew Lewis is the new Senior Personnel Officer for The Spastics Society's Headquarters, Marketing and Regions.

Aged 33, he had nine years experience of industrial relations at the Ford Motor Company, where he held personnel and training posts. Before joining the Society on 1 April he was personnel manager for Intercontinental Hotels in the Sultanate of Oman.

"I'll be involved in the development of personnel policy, as well as my more general role of giving advice and assistance to management on all personnel matters," he says.

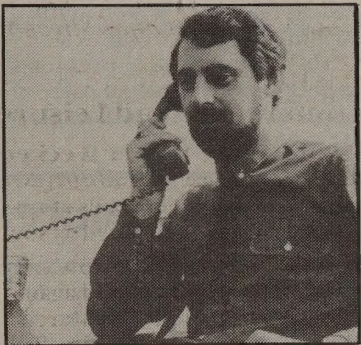
"Because I'm dealing with a

and health authorities.

"I'll be negotiating with local authorities for integrated care packages, so it will be quite a footslogging job. I'll also be visiting the Society's 33 units," he says.

Aged 41, he has worked in industry, residential care, as a child care officer and a senior probation officer. He was a principal officer for field and community work at the Children's Society, and most recently was an Area Manager for East Sussex Social Services Department.

"I think my new job will be about revitalising the subdivision in line with its new objectives, and ensuring that residents get a good service," he says. "I'd also like to increase staff training and good management practice."



much more disparate range of people and activities than I was before, I feel much more thought has to go into resolving each issue."



Linda Avery

Margaret's 23 year "temporary job"

The Three month temporary job **Margaret Gallafent** took with the Covenants and Donations Department turned into a stay of 23 years at Park Crescent.

She officially retired on 30 March after holding a wide range of posts including secretary to the Chief Accountant and secretary to the Director of Finance. For the last two years she has been Pensions Administrator.

She is not leaving the Society behind completely. She is continuing to work 3 days a week while her replacement, Dorrie Mosley, settles into the job. And her retirement plans include running pre-retirement courses at Castle Priory and working one day a week as secretary to the Park Crescent Staff Representative Group.

She received a gold watch at her party on 8 May. "I do greatly appreciate and thank everyone for the present, the party and the company over all the years I've been her," she says.

selected hotels and holiday centres. They provide helpers, insurance, transport and wheelchairs. Holidays planned for August and September are in Newquay, Tenby, Ibiza, and a 10 day European tour. Contact Carefree Holidays, 64 Florence Road, Abington, Northampton, NN1 4NA. Tel: (0604) 34301/22960.

New building regulation fact-sheet. The Spastics Society has produced a factsheet on Patrick Jenkin's new building regulations which introduce the first enforceable requirements that new buildings should be accessible to disabled people. Contact Sharron Saint Michael, Lobbying Department, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.

The National Association for Limbless Disabled has changed its address to 134 Martindale Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 7HQ. Tel: 01-572 5337

The Spinal Injuries Association has changed its address to Yeoman House, 76 St James Lane, London N10 3DF. Tel: 01-444 2121.

The Disabled Living Foundation has opened an "In Touch" Kitchen, displaying kitchen items suitable for visually handicapped people. This is part of the DLF's permanent aids exhibition in their showroom at 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU (appointments necessary). The DLF also has an aids enquiry service. Contact Hilary Draper at the above address. Tel: 01-289 6111.

DHSS wheelchair one-way brake. The DHSS wheelchair service has introduced an accessory brake for the model 8 wheelchair range which enables people to push up steep gradients whilst preventing the wheelchair from running back. Contact your nearest Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre.

or Rosamund Edwards, 29-31 Greville Street, London EC1N 8RB. Tel: 01-242 1242.

Access Guides to Waltham Forest. The London Borough of Waltham Forest Community Programme has produced *Access in Waltham* and *Access in Leytonstone and Leyton*. The booklets are available free from DIAL Waltham Forest, The Old School Building, 1a Warner Road, Walthamstow, London E17. Tel: 01-520 4111. Please send a larger envelope with stamps for 26p (for both guides).

Clients' Rights is a report of a working party established by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (on which The Spastics Society was represented). Topics covered include clients' rights in relation to good practice, access to information, the point of contact with the agency/establishment records, confidentiality, accountability, participation in management, case conferences, etc. A chapter is also devoted to the rights of those in residential care. Copies are obtainable from the NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU for £3.95 (plus postage and packing).

Endeavour for The Spastics Society offers the opportunity for Scouts to use their talents and initiative to earn money, individually or in groups, for The Spastics Society and their own unit. Application forms and further details can be obtained from Endeavour for The Spastics Society, Aidap House, 108-114 High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4DP. Completed forms must be returned by 1 July.

Carefree Holidays specialise in holidays for elderly and physically disabled people from the Northamptonshire area, in

Give a break, have a Kit Kat

Save your Kit Kat wrappers and your loose change from a holiday abroad and you will be helping to reach the £1,000,000 target of an appeal by the charity, Break.

Break, formed in 1968, provides holidays for children who are physically or mentally handicapped or are socially deprived.

With the proceeds of the appeal, Break is aiming to provide more holidays at its existing centres, subsidise holidays to a greater extent through an endowment fund, buy new transport and improve facilities.

From now until 30 September unwanted small change can be popped into special collection points at every branch of the



Trustee Savings Bank. From there, Dan Air will fly the money back to the country of origin where it will be converted to sterling and credited to the appeal.

For every Kit Kat wrapper returned, Rowntree Mackintosh will donate 3p to the appeal - to a maximum of £300,000. This will continue until 31 March 1986.

Edward Wimperley



Pleased as punch. Frank Jagger, Headmaster of The Spastics Society's Hawksworth Hall School in Leeds, collected a cheque for £4,200 from Aireborough Rotary Club on 1 May. The money was raised at a Charity Boxing Dinner on 13 March. From left to right: Bryan Latham, President of the Yorkshire Amateur Boxing Association; Frank Jagger; Rotarian Brian Waite, organiser of the event; David Kiely from sponsors First National Securities; David Shuttleworth, President of Aireborough Rotary Club.

City Flag Day raises £6,000

Street corners, shopping centres, tube stations and railway stations in the City's square mile resounded with the rattle of collecting boxes on 7 May. The London Region's City Flag Day involved nearly 300 collectors, both Society staff and local group members. It raised nearly £6,000 - this year's target.

Right, Helen Gray, The Spastics Society's librarian, picks up a few more pence.



The Society of Chiropodists has changed its address, from 8 Wimpole Street to 53 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HE.

Rights for pensioners. *Your Rights* (1985 edition) is available from Age Concern England. It gives concise explanations of available benefits and how to claim, the Job Release scheme, housing benefit, retirement pensions, NHS charges and travel concessions. Price 65p from leading booksellers or the Marketing Department (PR11), Age Concern England, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL (20p p&p).

Access for All is a new video film promoting access which concentrates on features required by wheelchair users. The hire price is £10, purchase price £30. Contact Concorde Films Council, 201 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9BJ. (0473) 76012.

Museum tape guide. Blind visitors to the Museum of London can now use a tape guide giving information about objects on display which they can touch. Parties should book in advance. Contact Victoria Woolard or Pamela Newman, Museum of London, London Wall EC2Y 5HN. Tel: 600 3699.

Say it with flowers - our bloomer

Last month we drew readers' attention to the Carnation Nursery in Guernsey which sends carnations and freesias, beautifully wrapped and with a gift card, anywhere in the British Isles.

For every order taken from a *Disability Now* reader, Carnation Nursery will contribute 50p to The Spastics Society.

Where we went wrong was on the postage and packing. This is included in the prices quoted - there is nothing extra to pay. So... 12 mixed carnations are £6, 12 carnations and 15 freesias are £8.50, 12 carnations and 25 freesias are £10, and so on.

Access or visa card holders can order over the phone. Or you can order by letter, sending your money and giving your name, the recipient's name and address, which flowers are to be sent, and the date they should arrive. The address is Carnation Nursery, St Martin's, Guernsey, C.I. tel: 0481 37624/37464.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publications from GLAD. The Greater London Association for Disabled People has published *Housing for People with Disabilities: a Study of Good Practice in Four London Boroughs* (price £2 including postage). The report calls for "urgent action" by local authorities because provision for disabled people is deteriorating due to cut-backs in public housing and local government spending. GLAD's 6th edition of its *Directory of Clubs and Groups for Handicapped People in Greater London* is now available, costing £5 plus 98p postage but free to individual disabled people. Their updated information booklet, *Induction Loops and Hearing Systems Installed in Greater London*, lists over 100 places of worship, meeting halls, theatres, cinemas, museums and centres (price £1.50 including postage and packing, free to individual disabled people). GLAD now has a new address: 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Tel: 01-274 0107.

Artsline, the telephone advice service on arts and entertainment in London for people with disabilities, has moved to 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU. Tel: 01-388 2278.

The Champion Children of the Year competition, run by Dr Barnardo's, is looking for teachers, parents and friends to nominate young people between the ages of eight and sixteen who have earned the respect of the community or who have shown exceptional ability and potential in a particular field. Categories are sport, dance, drama, art, music, bravery, academic achievement and triumph over adversity. Applications in by 13 July. For further information contact Fiona Smith

New London bus is "accessible to 95pc of population"

London Buses have unveiled their bus of the future. They claim it can be used by 95 per cent of the population as opposed to 74 per cent on current vehicles.

The bus, which will be on the roads in 1987, incorporates several features to make it more accessible to elderly and dis-

abled people and parents with children.

These include a low split-level front entrance, a lower exit step and increased space on steps and by some seats. Handrails have been repositioned and painted bright green to aid partially-sighted people.

The bus is the product of 18 months research by London Buses and Ogle Design of Letchworth. Trials involved more than 1,000 people, including visitors to a local day centre for disabled people.

A full-scale "mock-up" was displayed in Letchworth last month, and Hillary Lane, secretary of the North London Spastics Association, who is a mother and has cerebral palsy, went along to try it out.

"I think what they've done is quite impressive," she says. "The low step makes a noticeable difference. Where I live, buses never pull over to the pavement, so you have to step down into the road and lift your child and shopping in. On this bus, a child could step up and you don't have to



Journalists examine the bus of the future at Letchworth.

heave yourself in."

"More space on the stairs to the top deck makes things much easier," she says.

The new bus will have no conductor. (56 per cent of London Buses' present fleet is one-man operated, and to cut costs this will be increased to over 70 per

cent in the next 2 years.) To speed up the boarding rate the bus will have two charge card reading machines which involve "swiping" a card through a slot.

"These could cause problems for people with cerebral palsy or people with little manual dexterity," says Hillary Lane.



Hillary Lane enters the bus on the new low step.

How to plan day services for people with mental handicap

If mentally-handicapped people are to fit in and become part of the community, services will have to change and that will need careful planning.

The Independent Development Council for People with Mental Handicap has already produced a booklet setting out the principles behind community-based services. Now it has produced the first of a series of booklets suggesting how local authorities might go about planning them.

Living like other people concentrates on day services.

It makes 10 recommendations. Among them are: services should be designed to meet the expressed needs and preferences of mentally-handicapped people and users should be able

to try out different services so as to make informed choices; self-advocacy and citizen-advocacy should be established in every local area; families, friends and advocates should be involved in planning; community resources should be identified and representatives of them involved in planning; and current staff should play a key role in developing new services.

IDC is composed of 6 voluntary organisations in the field of mental handicap, including The Spastics Society.

Living like other people: next steps in day services for people with mental handicap is available from IDC Publications Department, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NE. £1.50.

Flexible services needn't cost more

People with a severe physical disability want to choose their own life style and be consulted about where and how they live, just like anyone else. Services for them must be flexible to take account of their changing needs, but this does not necessarily mean spending more money.

These are the main points of a booklet published by The Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability. It offers guidelines to health and local authorities on planning a better network of services.

The working party which drew up the guidelines was composed of disabled people supported by 30 voluntary organisations in the field, including The Spastics Society.

Living Options sets out 15 steps which could be taken by service providers. These include: establishing Joint Care Planning teams to deal with disability issues; involving disabled people and parents on advisory and consultative committees as recommended in the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act; setting up more local disablement associations and Centres of Independent Living to give vital information on services, funding and allowance en-

titlements; establishing a shared budget between health and social services departments to supply special equipment in the home; and providing continence advisors.

"We hope that these guidelines may provide a basis for future work or may stimulate interest in some local seminars," says Nancy Robertson of the Advisory Group.

Supporting organisations will get together to decide future action, possibly a follow-up booklet of good practice.

"We welcome any initiative which addresses the problems of living in the community for those who are disabled", says John Cox. "We shall be happy to contribute to another booklet."

Living Options is free, from The Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, Room 142, 22 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JJ, tel: 01-724 1861/2.

Carematch

Last month we omitted to give the address of Carematch. Contact Lin Berwick, 215 Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, Essex. Tel: (040 24) 58325.

Can you hear me at the back?

Half of Britain's 30,000 deaf children are losing out educationally because they do not have radio hearing aids.

This is the finding of a survey of technology for deaf children carried out by the National Deaf Children's Association.

The Association hopes that the National Health Service will introduce radio hearing aids as a statutory provision - at the moment charities, parents and some local authorities have to buy them.

Harry Cayton, Director of the NDCA, estimates that the cost of statutory provision to every child who needs a radio hearing aid would be £2 million.

"As little as £200,000 annually would be needed to service and maintain them," he says. "This is only 1.6 per cent of the existing NHS hearing aid budget."

National Deaf Children's Week, held from 12-18 May aimed to draw attention to the inadequacy of provision and the lack of information available to parents and professionals on new technology.

Enid Blyton Centre opens

A new centre for children who have reading difficulties as a result of handicap opened in London last month.

The National Library for the Handicapped Child (Blyton Handi-Read Centre) will stock a wide range of books, cassettes, filmstrips, slides, videos and computer programmes suitable for children up to 16 who have physical, mental or emotional handicaps.

Sponsored by the Enid Blyton Trust for Children, the library offers an enquiry service for parents, teachers, librarians and therapists. Those who visit the centre can try out audio-visual equipment and computer programmes.

"Everyone should know of the existence of this library," says Janet Larcher, The Spastics Society's microelectronics development officer. "It's a valuable source of information."

Blyton Handi-Read Centre, Lynton House, Tavistock Square, London WC1 9LT, tel: 01-387 7016.



EQUIPMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED



A wide variety of special furniture and equipment for the handicapped child
Fully illustrated CATALOGUE available free
Robertsbridge E Sussex TN32 5DR phone 0580 880626

Disability Now

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.

Editor Mary Wilkinson
Assistant Simon Crompton
Secretary Kathy Johnson
Circulation Gayle Mooney
Advertising Don E. Neal, Kingslea Press Ltd., Central Buildings, 24 Southwark Street, London SE1 1TY. Tel: 01-403 3115.

Typesetting by Foremost Typesetting Ltd., 56 Carter Lane, London EC4.

Printed by NewsWeb Ltd., Hastings (0424 52811) and 108 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4. Tel: 01-583 3190.

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.
Copyright © 1985 The Spastics Society.

Newton

SIMPLY THE BEST IN WHEELCHAIRS

- Powered and manual lightweight chairs.
- A folding Streamliner chair which gives easy access to narrow areas.
- There is the perfect chair for your needs in the Newton range.

A manufacturing Division of The Spastics Society.

To Alan James, Sales Manager, Newton Products, Meadway Works, Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0SQ.
Please send me your brochure of wheelchairs.

Name

Address